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Mitchell & Co. Reviewed.

EDITOR AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL:—Please insert the following extracts from Nos. 15 and 16, October 15th to November 1st, 1871, of N. C. Mitchell's bee paper,* that your readers may have both sides. L. L. LANGSTROTH.

"A Word to Our Subscribers.

"You will remember that we gave notice in the last number of the Journal, that we would publish in this number the claims and disclaims of Mr. Langstroth; and just as we go to press, we received from Rev. H. A. King of the *Beekeepers' Journal*, the statements of Baron von Berlepsch, who is an eminent beekeeper of Europe, and as it will look well in print, and being just the thing to read in connection with Langstroth's claims, we propose to publish it.

The reader will notice that Mr. Langstroth claimed everything; but finding that the com-

* I have been unwilling to call N. C. Mitchell's bee paper the "National Bee Journal," or Mr. King's "The Bee Journal and National Agriculturist," for reasons that I think will be deemed sufficient by all fair-minded men. In 1861, Mr. Samuel Wagner published the first periodical devoted to bee-culture ever issued in this country; its title was the "American Bee Journal." In consequence of the business disturbances created by our lamentable civil war, this publication was suspended one year from its first issue. In 1866, Rev. E. Vanslyke advertised that he would publish a monthly periodical, devoted to the interests of bee-culture, under the title of "American Bee Journal." On being informed by Mr. Wagner that this was the title of the periodical published by him in 1861, and the publication of which he intended soon to resume, and that therefore, while he conceded the right of any one to publish a periodical on bee-culture, he must object to his using this title. Mr. Vanslyke very honorably changed the name of his paper to that of "Bee Gazette." The editors of our prominent agricultural papers know that articles from the "American Bee Journal" have been credited to Mr. King and Mitchell's periodicals, and Mr. Wagner has been repeatedly informed that parties have subscribed for them, supposing they were subscribing for the "American Bee Journal." I do not hesitate, therefore, to stigmatize the conduct of Messrs. King and Mitchell in assuming titles so well calculated to deceive, as grossly unfair, and I believe that the public will sustain the charge.

missioner of patents would not allow the claims as presented, his attorney cunningly devised another plan. His motive is apparent enough, his efforts being given to mystify the claims in such a manner as to deceive the beekeepers in general, and determining to be obtuse as possible. He proceeds to draw up the disclaims of Mr. Langstroth, and in fact makes such a perfect job of it, that one must sift it thoroughly or he will not be able to see through both his claims and disclaims. To properly understand it, one must need be an attorney, and a pretty clear-headed one in the bargain, or he would never see his way through the fog of legal lore which envelopes the whole proceedings.

We were of the opinion that Mr. Langstroth had two claims that would hold good, neither of which would we give a fig for, and recent developments have confirmed us in the impression that should the case ever be tried in any court having jurisdiction in the United States, that said court will cancel the celebrated Langstroth patent; and we have serious doubts as to its ever being brought up for a test. Mr. Otis is the man *Friday* in Mr. Langstroth's life, and the very course of Mr. Langstroth's man *Friday* permits us in taking this view of the subject.

In the year 1863, this man Otis commenced suit against a number of men. We will mention the names of some: A. F. Moon, Vanslyke and Austin and others, all using different hives. This man *Friday* kept these cases before the court until even his stupidity comprehended that a compromise with the parties was out of the question, and accordingly withdrew them, and we are told that Otis paid the cost in every case.

But it seems at last, that Otis did get judgment against Charles Austin, and the decision of the court Mr. Otis had copied into Mr. Langstroth's *circular*, and paraded all over the United States, as a warning to all users and manufacturers of movable comb hives, and told them that their turn would come next. Nevertheless, movable comb hives flourished, improvements were made, and progression has kept steadily onward.

Now let us look into this case, and see what there is in it. There is only one judgment that the Langstroth party can show any one; and were we to assert that said judgment was obtained by default, you would say is it possible? and yet 'tis not only possible but true.

The suit was commenced in 1863 and closed in 1866. Time and again Mr. Austin appeared ready for trial, and yet it was deferred, and at last he determined to waste no more time, being aware that should they take judgment by default, he could at any time open the case.

So, in his absence the case came up; a judgment was found against him. That was just to their hand, and we are told they even paid the expenses incurred by the suit, not even calling upon Mr. Austin to settle one cent of it (very clever that). We don't see why they did not want the benefits derived from the judgment, and why they made no use of it save to herald it all over the country. We don't say it was a put up job, but it smells of it and tastes of it.

Otis is a cunning man, and he would be glad if Austin would permit him to take judgment; and as Otis has left Austin go scott free, what else does it look like? *Who will name the bantling?* Are we not right in charging that if Otis can prevent it, we will never have another decision upon the Langstroth patent! They dare not risk it. Their only desire is to scare somebody into paying them for what does not rightly belong to them.

If Mr. Langstroth's claims were to hold good, not one movable comb hive in twenty could be held as infringers upon the Langstroth patent; and as we have been compelled to come out in defence of the beekeepers, we must perforce make it lively for Mr. Langstroth's man Friday, and shall also give in our future numbers, the cuts and drawings of movable comb hives used before Mr. Langstroth obtained a patent, and that will enable all beekeepers to read Mr. Langstroth's claims understandingly. Both him and his man Friday have no one to blame but themselves in bringing this discussion before the public; if it is notoriety they seek, we propose to give them enough of it.

It will be remembered, that during the early spring months of this year, that Mr. Langstroth and his *right-bower* were swinging round the circle. Chicago was favored with their presence, where they sent out red hot shot broadcast through the medium of the *Prairie Farmer*, threatening direful things to all beekeepers using the movable comb hives. That article was copied (as was intended by them) into many of the agricultural journals of the United States—a *cheap way of advertising*—and at that time we put forth our mightiest effort to keep from opening our battery upon them; but after due reflection, concluded to wait further developments. From thence the pair proceeded to Wisconsin, and were there skinned to the tail by Kidder. Mr. Langstroth struck a *bee line* from there to more congenial climes, and his man Friday went at his old tricks, viz.: skinning everybody that he could find that was green enough to hold still. The instrument used for skinning was threats of bringing suits against said persons, and dwelling upon the enormous amount of costs they would be put to if suit was commenced against them.

Of course it took; for if there is anything our farmers dislike, it is a suit at law; and rather than have any trouble, they would shell out

beautifully. Others that would not come down with the needful, were told to look out for the United States marshal, and are still looking out for him, vainly, it must be confessed.

Many of them have written to us for our opinion, and have asked us to publish the Langstroth patent. For a long time we hesitated, Mr. L. being an old and honored beekeeper, and for whom we have ever entertained the best feelings; and in all candor, we must say that we dislike very much to say anything that will wound the feelings of Mr. Langstroth, having ever held him to be a good and worthy man; but human nature can't stand everything; and so long as he keeps that man Friday in the field, harping upon infringements, he must look out for breakers, for we shall defend the right and the people against fraud to the last.

Had Mr. Langstroth and his *right-bower* been satisfied with their just claims, and kept about their business, they might this day have been in the same condition as the Yankee (*that got rich by minding his own business*).

We pity Mr. Langstroth for having selected such an instrument as Otis to represent him, and then persist in following him to the last ditch; and they will soon be floundering in the same ditch together, and no one will be to blame but yourselves. You dug the ditch, and the Good Book says: "they that dig a pit fall therein." Well; you will not be the first that have learned that fact when too late.

We also read in the Good Book of a certain Haman, that had a gallows prepared on which to hang a so-called infringer by the name of Mordecai, and *was himself hung thereon!* Mr. Otis, how do you like the picture?

In justice to Mr. Moon, let me here state that I have written this article without first consulting him, and he is not in the least responsible for it."

N. C. MITCHELL.

Personal.

"We are sorry to be compelled, in the present number, to depart from our usual course, in not allowing anything to enter our columns that could in any way be considered personal; and also that we have to attack so good a man as the subject of this personal, the Rev. L. L. Langstroth, patentee of the Langstroth bee hive.

Mr. Langstroth, let us say that we do not wish to injure you in the least, but we feel bound to say to you, as a friend that you must haul down that black standard of extermination; that cry of wholesale prosecution must stop; the beekeepers demand it; they claim the right to make improvements, and if need be, invent bee hives, and experiment in any way they may see proper.

As the case now stands, we must perforce take sides with either Mr. Langstroth or the people; one or the other must go to the wall.

There is, in our opinion, but one way left open for Mr. Langstroth, by which he can hope to escape honorably, and that way is, take the Langstroth hive as it now stands and is used throughout the United States by hundreds and thousands that are ready and willing to pay for them. No one has ever demanded of them any pay for the

right to manufacture and use them. If Mr. Langstroth will take his hive as it is, we would not have any objection to him getting a renewal of his patent. As it now stands, Mr. Langstroth has received scarcely anything for his invention, and is not likely to. As it now is, he may be considered unfortunate in having selected such a man as Otis to represent him. That man, Mr. Langstroth must get rid of, or his good name will suffer. We are of the mind that he has influenced Mr. Langstroth to make war upon beekeepers in general, and Mr. Langstroth is now called upon to decide between the beekeeping fraternity and Mr. Otis.

If he continues to back up Mr. Otis, and to endorse his procedures of enforcing war upon the so-called infringers, then we intend to enter the field, and will use every honorable means to force both Mr. Langstroth and Otis to the wall, and in doing so, we believe that we are acting in the defence of right and justice."

N. C. MITCHELL.

In publishing what he calls "the claims and disclaims of the Langstroth hive," Mr. Mitchell ought to have adhered strictly to the *original* instead of entirely suppressing the Italics in passages where those Italics were manifestly intended to direct the attention of the reader more particularly to the vital points. This manifest breach of good faith will prepare the reader for his subsequent misrepresentations.

"The reader will notice that Mr. Langstroth claimed everything." Those who read my careful disclaimer of the Huber, Munn, and Debeauvois hives, *republished by Mr. Mitchell himself*, will be at no loss to see that I did not claim everything. When Mr. M. asserts that "finding the commissioner of patents would not allow the claims as presented, his attorney cunningly devised another plan," he was either ignorant of the facts in the case, or he had referred to the files of the patent office to obtain the proper information. If he wrote these comments upon the way in which my re-issue was obtained, in utter ignorance of the facts, he must be a very reckless man; and if he wrote them after having informed himself of the facts, he must have strange notions of truth and honor. It is more charitable to presume that the habit of making wild and extravagant assertions* based only on a vivid imagination has "so grown by what it has fed on;" that he has actually lost the power of correct discrimination and sober statement.

Let me state some facts. 1st. I had no attorney, but managed my own case before the examiners whose duty it is, and not that of the commissioner, to pass upon applications for the re-issue of a patent. 2d. There was only a *single claim* objected to by the examiners, Professor

Charles Page, now dead, and Addison M. Smith, Esq. Professor Page called my attention to the fact that he had seen—I think he said in his father's apiary—a shallow chamber over bars or slats nailed fast, so as to have no lateral motion, and that one of my claims was broad enough to cover this device. I give the claim as it stood in the original and the one in the re-issue, which I substituted for it.

CLAIM IN RE-ISSUE.

The shallow chamber in combination with the top bars of the latterly movable frames, or their equivalents, and with the perforated honey-boards upon which to place surplus honey receptacles, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

ORIGINAL CLAIM.

The use of the shallow chamber or air space placed over any hive having bars or slats in combination with a perforated cover or honey-board on which to place surplus receptacles of any kind substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

May 26, 1863.

Within the last few months, I have seen, in a French work published in 1842, the same kind of shallow chamber over the fixed bars or slats, mentioned by Professor Page. It is both figured and described, and if Mr. King thinks that it will help him advantageously to amend his answers to the suit of Mr. Otis, it will be cheerfully furnished to his counsel.

There are some grains of truth in the statements of Mr. Mitchell. My disclaims are *not* as clear to the general reader as they would have been if the patent office had allowed me to retain the whole of my original specification as it now appears on their files. In this specification I carefully described the features of the Huber, Munn, and Debeauvois hives, and showed in what respects they differ from my invention. It was objected to as unnecessarily minute, furnishing information highly interesting to inventors of bee hives, but which the office ought not to allow on account of the expense of copying it.

If Mr. Mitchell thinks that the court has only to pass upon the Langstroth patent to *cancel* it, why should he so bitterly complain of Mr. Otis, who is striving to give them an opportunity of deciding upon it? Why should he assault him with such vulgar abuse? Will not the public infer that if the bringing of Otis' suit against King to an issue would kill my patent, that both Mr. Mitchell and Mr. King would be glad to have the issue met.

In due time the beekeepers of the country will have ample proof who are the parties who are afraid to have the matter tested, and why they have sought by *indecent* accusations to forestall public opinion, so as to cripple Mr. Otis' pecuniary resources by putting it out of his power to collect money due him for territory sold. They have missed their aim; the money will not be lacking, and the suit will be pushed to trial. I pass over with a brief notice Mr. Mitchell's long account of suits. Unfortunately these suits were not *in equity*, the testimony was

* See, for example, in his circulars and papers the repeated assertions that he could in a *single season* multiply his colonies *one hundred fold*, and that he had control of a patent for making artificial comb which would revolutionize beekeeping, when no patent had been issued for such an invention, and the plan though ingenious proved a failure.

taken by the defendants *ex parte*, without their being obliged to give Mr. Otis notice, so that he could be present and cross-examine their witnesses. Mr. Gifford, of New York, advised him to withdraw them for this reason. The judgment against Austin was for using the Kidder hive. It was obtained by default, because Mr. Kidder did not see fit to contest it. Mr. Austin used but a *single hive*. The object of the suit was to test the validity of the Langstroth patent, and show that the Kidder hive had infringed upon it, and Mr. Otis had no need to call upon Austin for any special damages.

When I personally informed Mr. King, about a year ago, that I regarded all his patents as infringing upon mine, he very pleasantly told me "that he would make a big fight," to which I replied, that we were glad to find at last a party who had so much at stake that he must defend himself, and test the validity of the patent to the satisfaction of the public.

Since that conversation, several propositions have been made by Mr. King to compromise the matter, in one of which he says that he has evidence, which if properly attended to, will, he is confident, invalidate my patent; but it will cost a large sum of money, and he is unwilling to engage in a controversy, and for the sake of peace would prefer paying this money to obtain a license under the Langstroth patent. For the sake of peace, he was willing to get a license under a patent which he could prove to be invalid, and thus join in calling upon beekeepers to pay for using what was public property! Surely, Mr. King's ideas of right and wrong need amending as much as his various patents, nearly every patented feature of which he has after trial discarded. (See April No. of American Bee Journal.)

Mr. Mitchell says: "If Mr. Langstroth's claims hold good, not one movable comb in twenty will be held as infringers upon the Langstroth patent." Now, we feel confident that the very reverse of this will be judicially pronounced true, and that not one movable frame hive in twenty will escape being enjoined as infringing upon the Langstroth patent. As to our great surprise, Mr. Mitchell has so handsomely endorsed us as a clear-headed attorney, he will surely review his opinion upon this matter, and thus make a proper use of our astuteness. We will charge him no fee for our "legal lore."

Let us look a little into that "threatening article" in the *Prairie Farmer*, from Mr. Otis and myself. I will first give the article:

"CAUTION TO BEEKEEPERS."

All persons using the Triangular Comb Guide, or "bevelled edge," in Langstroth hives, are cautioned against paying K. P. Kidder, or agents, for such use. At our request, he has sued us, and we believe the courts will soon decide that the said guide is public property, and that we are not infringing his rights in the Clark patent.

L. L. LANGSTROTH,
Oxford, Ohio.

R. C. OTIS,

Chicago, April 20, 1871. Kenosha, Wisconsin."

This was written after Mr. K. P. Kidder had served notice upon us that a suit would be brought against us for infringing upon his rights under the Clark patent on the triangular comb guide. Does the advertisement "threaten direful things to all beekeepers using the movable comb hives." It is true, that it was inserted as an advertisement in some of the leading agricultural journals of the United States, but the bills we paid for thus attempting to protect the public* would never have suggested to us the idea of *cheap* advertising.

We have little doubt that Mr. Mitchell did "at that time put forth his mightiest effort to keep from opening his batteries upon us." Neither Mr. King nor himself have ever made even a moderate effort to open their smallest batteries upon their friend Kidder. He is an enemy to the Langstroth patent, and must have every opportunity of levying unchecked his detestable black mail upon the Langstroth public. Messrs. King and Mitchell know well that he is defrauding the public, and that by their silence they are lending him aid and comfort.

Can those who have read Mr. Mitchell's abuse of "the old and honored beekeeper for whom he has ever entertained the best of feelings," can they, even by the largest stretch of charity, help believing that he enters upon his work with a hearty determination to strike hard and wound deep, and that his professed "tender mercies" are as "cruel" as he dared to make them?

Only a short year ago, he and Mr. King professed at the Cincinnati convention to be my warmest friends; and Mr. King, in particular, could hardly say enough in my praise, asserting that "He (Mr. Langstroth) first made high bee-culture possible by his genius and industry," and expressing his regret that his book contained some reflections upon Mr. Langstroth, which were published in misapprehension of the facts, &c. Had I sold myself to these men at that convention, and joined hands with them in maligning Mr. Otis because he asked the highest tribunal of justice in the land, the United States Court, to listen to his case, and decide whether or not the patent of which he owned the largest part was valid, and if valid; to speak with the strong voice of law to all infringers upon it, and give them to understand that there was such a thing as a legal patent on a bee hive, and that its owners had some rights which the courts would compel all parties to respect—had I then and there acted with such atrocious bad faith towards not only Mr. Otis, but towards every other party who have purchased a territorial interest in my patent, that the only way of explaining my conduct would have been the conviction that I had sold myself for filthy lucre, or had become weak and imbecile from disease; yes, had I there become the associate of Messrs. King and Mitchell, and like some others, their tool and dupe, I might have been allowed to pass my hat

* As we cannot do justice to Mr. Kidder in this article, we propose in a future number of the American Bee Journal, to give the Clark patent and Mr. Kidder's course as owner of it, a thorough examination.

around for a little charity to be doled out by the men who had enriched themselves by preying upon my invention.

Let not the honest and true men, who in all good faith purposed to raise a Langstroth testimonial, imagine that I mean in the least to reflect upon them, or that I shall ever forget their generous appreciation and cordial reception; and let those whose sinister motives, though veiled under the most plausible and hypocritical pretences, needed for their detection only the simplest sentiments of truth and honor, venture if they dare to unveil further the plots and intrigues of the Cincinnati convention of February, 1871.

Both Mr. King and Mr. Mitchell have repeatedly taken occasion to say that they "PITY" Mr. Langstroth. Beekeepers of America! I trust you will never see your old friend and servant fall so low as to become really an object of pity to such men as Messrs. King and Mitchell.

What have I ever done or said, as Mr. Mitchell intimates, inconsistent with progress and improvement in bee-culture? unless it be that kind of progress which has its beginning, middle and end in appropriating the work of other men's brains. If such easy virtue in the matter of dealing in patents is to carry the day, what need of learned judges to interpret our patent laws. A new highway will have been opened to the highest success. To travel safely on it, only patent some contemptible *gim-crack*; some frivolous if not noxious conceit; attach it to the valuable patent of a *bona fide* inventor; enrol yourself among the bands of humbugs and infringers; sign articles of agreement that on the principle of "honor among thieves," you will in no ways interfere with each other's piratical proceedings, but prey only upon the innocent public. Misrepresent, slander, and if needs be blackguard every man who has rights and dares to stand up in their defence, and if some men are to be credited, you are in a fair way to become one of the "great American apiarians," and world-renowned inventors, who stand in the very front ranks of progress and improvement. I will venture the prediction, that in due time the public will put their seal of honest condemnation upon all such preposterous pretensions.

"Raro antecedentem scelestum
Deseruit pede poena claudo."

Hor.

Justice outstripped, seems often halting in her pace,
Yet seldom is she beaten by a bad man in the race.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 16, 1871.

The *Mahonia aquifolium*, a species of barberry growing wild in Western North America, and introduced in European gardens as a beautiful flowering plant, is spoken of in German bee journals as a valuable, handy, early blooming honey plant. It is a bushy shrub, three or four feet high, said to blossom profusely in advance of peach, cherry and plum trees, and is frequented by bees in crowds. How is it in these respects in this country?

The Debeauvoys Hive.

The following communication comes to us alike unexpectedly and unsolicited, and yet comes quite opportunely. In the article concocted by H. A. King, which was given in the last number of the Journal, that veracious and fair-dealing dealer in worthless patents refers to the book of Mr. Debeauvoys and says the author therein "describes movable frames containing all the features of the most perfect frames now used in this country." If, before writing these words, King even saw and examined the Debeauvoys hive, or read a correct description of it and its frames, he must have known that he deliberately penned a gross misrepresentation, for the purpose of deceiving and misleading his readers. The Debeauvoys frames lack the essential features of the most perfect frames now used in this country, and for that very reason proved to be a failure in practice, so decided and irremediable that, after full trial they were rejected and abandoned. Perhaps, after reading Mr. Dadant's description of the hive and his account of its fate in France, King may begin to suspect that his efforts at deception have not been quite as successful, in this instance, as he hoped they would. He is doomed to yet other equally overwhelming and mortifying disappointments.

Honor to whom Honor is due.

In the patent hive contest which arose between Mr. Langstroth and Mr. H. King, I have no more wish to give my opinion than I have the desire of supporting either side. However, I think it is my duty to tell what the Debeauvoys hive was when the first two editions of Debeauvoys book were published. I had those two editions (1844-1847) in my possession, and manufactured hives with their directions, for my own use.

The frames of the Debeauvoys hive were as broad as the interior of the hive, i. e., close-fitting at the sides, and supported in the hive by two strips of wood nailed inside of the hive and at the distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch from the bottom.

The hive had its roof slanting and nailed. The bottom was movable. The two sides were movable doors, through which the frames could be taken out. These doors, being of the same size as the frames, could be pushed in the hive to contract the space. They were held in place with hooks. The frames were kept apart by nails driven in them at each side.

The hive worked well when new and empty; but after the bees had glued the frames, it was difficult to remove them, without breaking the combs.

It would have been entirely impossible to remove them at all, without separating the ends of the hive from the frames with a chisel.

This hive, which had gained 2,500 proselytes in France, was very soon abandoned by all; and the disciples of Debeauvoys returned to the old-fashioned straw hive. (*Vide L'Apiculteur*, Paris, Ferrier 1869.)

The inventions of Debeauvoys were disastrous for French bee-culture. The tenacity with which the majority of French beekeepers hold fast to day to the old system, is due to the defects of the movable frame hives that they tried at first, "*Chien échaudé craint l'eau froide*."

The Berlepsch hive is not much better than the Debeauvoys hive, if we are to believe what M. M. Bastian and Mona say of it.

Mr. Bastian writes in his book, "*Les Abeilles*," Paris, 1868, page 148, "The Berlepsch hive costs from 15 to 20 francs; besides it has to be built of very exact dimensions, for the slightest varying prevents the frames from fitting in it."

* "A scalded dog dreads even cold water."

On the other hand, Mr. Mona writes in the Italian *L'Apicoltore* (Milan, July, 1871), page 205, whatever have been the defects of my hive and methods, four years ago, I am not responsible, if they were not superior to the level of bee-culture in Europe. This vertical hive (Berlepsch fashion) with 24 frames *arcipropolisabili*, placed on top of the other, with diaphragms and small comb covers, with insufficient ventilation, and other *delizie*, was soon replaced by another system, that was altogether easier, cheaper, better, and more productive."

In the "*Journal des Fermes*," Paris, August 16th, 1869, page 324, Mr. Mona writes—"An American beekeeper, Mr. A. Grimm, visited me in September, 1867. He advised me to adopt the American form of hive (Langstroth's), which he himself used on a large scale. He asked for some boards, some nails, and a few tools, and after a short time he presented to me a pattern of his hive. I found the length of the frames disproportionate, but I soon recognized the advantage of the movable cover, and after a few weeks of hesitation, I resolved to make a hundred hives of the same kind, with shorter frames. I used them for the last two years, and I acknowledge that they are very useful for me, the handling of the frames being very speedy."

The reader will notice that the date of the construction of these hives is in accordance with the four years of which Mr. Mona speaks in *L'Apicoltore*.

It appears from the above that while the disciples of Debeauvoys in France abandoned his hive, and the disciples of Berlepsch and Berlepsch himself groped to improve their own hive, L. Langstroth gave to the American beekeepers an easily constructed and easily managed hive, which, from the beginning until now, rendered the best services to bee-culture.

I do not know whether these facts can have any influence on the law suit now pending, but I owed to Mr. L. Langstroth, I owed to truth, I owed to the history of bee-culture, the publication of the above facts.

I send one copy of this to each of three American bee journals. They will publish it, if they think proper.

CH. DADANT.

Hamilton, Ills., January, 1873.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Novice.

DEAR BEE JOURNAL:—We really believe we have got at something. Just listen! It may not be new to some of our bee friends, but it is new to us. You remember how we fed our bees in October last, on coffee-sugar syrup, and sold our honey for twenty cents per pound.

Perhaps we did not tell you, but it is a fact, that three-fourths or more of twenty-five pounds we made them weigh was the sugar syrup, and we decided to risk the experiment, being sure that all other conditions were complied with.

Well, to-day (Feb. 12th) being very bright and warm, we put out one stock, just to hear bees buzz once more, and to see them fly.

Our "better-half" had just finished hanging out her morning's washing, when we announced our determination, and the white linen (or cotton) was flapping largely in the breeze.

"Now, Novice! Please don't put the bees out to-day. My white clothes (they are white, Mr.

Editor, if we do say it), will be all spoiled with their nasty work, and I shall have to wash them all over again."

We argued that we would only set out a few hives at the further side of the apiary.

"But they will fly all over, you know they will, as they always spot the snow for acres around; and you will get your coat spoiled too."

"We will take it off," we suggested, suiting the action to the word.

"But your shirt will be worse yet."

We were near to the bee-house by this time, and (Mr. Editor she *isn't* difficult; she knew where the old coat hung, and so did we, but old coats are too much bother. (Ours are all old enough, we thought.) We would be careful. We are *always* careful, unless something interests us very much, and then we sometimes forget. No. 61 was on its summer stand in a trice, and out came the yellow pets just as tame and just as we used to handle them in October. Out they pour as we raise their quilt, and in our haste to see who should see the queen first, our white shirt sleeves (*Monday* morning, you know), were forgotten, until we made the pleasant discovery that there were no spots on the snow, nor anywhere else; and there isn't a spot yet, though they have flown freely. We have read in the Journal of some such occurrence, but have always had a little doubt about their first flight in the spring not showing some discolored spots on the clean snow; but now we have it verified sure.

They have wintered unusually well, and we really begin to think sugar-syrup *safe* for wintering, if for nothing more.

Still further. A neighbor just came in, who borrowed our "tea-kettles" after we had finished feeding, and fed sugar-syrup to a *part* of his bees that *needed it*—all wintered in the open air in a row. Before we had time to ask, he mentioned that those stocks fed had not discolored the snow at all; while the old box hives, heavy with honey, had stained the ground and their hives as well, badly.

If the "tea-kettles" were a patent-right article, what a testimonial in their favor this would be!

This forenoon a gentleman called to get our opinion as to the cause of his bees dying in a house made like ours, and brought one of the combs for us to examine. We at once pronounced it "that bee disease" of the spring of 1868; and on looking carefully, we found the honey thin, with occasional small bubbles, and a taste that was not just right. He said his bees had worked quite late in the fall, and in some of the boxes the honey had soured.

Now, is the cause of that "bee disease" not apparent? It certainly is to us, and before we lose again all but eleven out of thirty-eight colonies, we will give them clear comb and coffee-sugar syrup. If any one else has had a like experience, please give it to us in the Journal.

If bees will always winter safely on sugar syrup, why not remove *all* the honey in the fall, and feed them up with sugar and the tea-kettle feeders? (Twenty-five pounds in nine hours you

know.) Then we can really "cover the arithmetical patent-right formula" of doubling *surely* and *safely* every year for twenty years. Honey paying for labor and hives, so that Mr. Apiarian can then retire from active duties and live on his little independence.

If Mr. Quinby and Mr. Langstroth, both, would give us their experience on wintering on sugar alone (coffee or crushed sugar), we should be more obliged to them than we can tell.

Mr. Editor, our weight is now 137½ lbs., (usual weight for the past ten years 125 lbs.), and we suspect that our success in wintering on sugar (the *bees* we mean; *we* shall eat the honey), will add at least 10 lbs. more.

One thing more. We fear that we have not made ourselves clearly understood, judging from something that Mr. Gallup says in regard to answering letters; for nothing gives us greater pleasure than to answer letters like the following (names omitted):

"Wis., Jan. 27, 1872.

"Dear Sir:—While in Medina last summer, I was very much interested in your apiary. The thought suggested itself to me of raising bees also, and I have now made arrangements by which I can have as many bees as cash and time will allow.

"If you would give me any advice as to beginning, and tell me what book or books to read, I would be much obliged.

"Yours, respectfully."

We believe we have never failed, in a single instance, to answer such inquiries as fully as we knew how. But when some one demands of us the results in detail of our experiments for the last five years, we cannot help referring him to the back numbers of the American Bee Journal. And when we have done so, so briefly as to perhaps seem unfeeling or rude, we most sincerely beg pardon, and will try and not think that we would like to keep bees on "Robinson Crusoe's Island."

Then, old Bee Journal, good-bye until next month.

As ever,

NOVICE.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

On Wintering Bees.

By REV. E. L. BRIGGS.

The best mode of carrying our bees through the winter is doubtless the most important question now being asked by the apiarian.

It is not the receptacle in which they are kept, so much as it is the condition of the colonies when they are put into winter quarters, which determines their prosperity to the greatest extent, according to my experiments. If frost or dampness has already accumulated among the combs, by severe cold weather, and they are in this condition when the hives are set in the cellar, of course this dampness will produce mouldy combs; and this in turn will produce dysentery among the bees and cause the combs to be polluted by their untimely discharges.

Bees should be put into their winter receptacles long before severe freezing weather occurs; and always when the combs are free from dampness. In the latitude of 40° to 42°, not later than from the 1st to the 15th of November. In such cases, if kept in a temperature of from 32° to 45° F., they will remain almost dormant for the next three months, and very often, for five months together. But just as soon, after they begin to manifest the least uneasiness, as it is safe for them, they should be set out upon their summer stands, and allowed to take a fly for a day or two; and then return to the cellar again, to remain until spring weather permits them to begin to gather pollen. I think from five to eight pounds of honey will carry a colony through from the 1st of November to the 1st of April, under such circumstances. But from this until the blossoming of white clover, they will consume, in rearing brood and from being constantly active, perhaps as much as, or more than they did during the five months of winter confinement.

It is very important that the bees should be set out to take their winter fly, in just the right kind of weather, or great loss will accrue from their being chilled and never regaining their hives again. I have seen the ground almost covered for rods around, when set out in cloudy or windy weather. It should be a clear sunshiny day; perfectly calm, if possible; and the thermometer up to at least 50°. Then each colony should be set upon the stand just where it is to be placed when put out again in April, or great loss will accrue from them returning to their old entrance and never finding their way home again. Several such days occur almost every winter about the middle of February. This is the time to set them out. But better not set them out at all, than to set them out on a cool, raw, windy day; for to reduce their numbers greatly now, is almost fatal to their next summer's prosperity.

After a day's joyous recreation, they will remain quiet in their winter repository, when returned, though breeding will go on in the hive a little more rapidly than in the former part of the winter.

I have in a former article, given the best mode of ventilating a cellar, which I have ever seen described. But even a poorly ventilated cellar will do, if these precautions are observed.

When the combs are perfectly dry, and before hard freezing weather has commenced, set your bees in a dry dark cellar. Leave the fly holes open as in summer; open a small hole or crevice, such as a half-inch bit would make, near the top of each hive, for upward ventilation; leave them as quiet as possible until the middle of February: set them out on a calm fair day, until they have taken their flurry. Then return them to the cellar as before; let them remain until bees begin to gather pollen; then return them to the stand they occupied before, and let them remain for the spring and summer.

Unless diseased from some outward cause, bees will suffer next to no loss under such treatment, and the combs will come out as bright as in the fall, and not more than half of the honey will be

consumed that would be, if left on their summer stands.

When the next number of the Journal comes to hand, it will be the time for setting out the bees.

Concerning my method of spring management, I shall speak in another paper.

E. L. BRIGGS.

Knoxville, Iowa.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

* The Twin Hive as a Non-Swarmer.

Just before swarming time I remove three large colonies, combs, bees and all, into three of the twin hives, setting them on the same stands. I then fill up the other end of the hives with comb, removing some of the brood into the vacant part and placing that end of the hive in front. This brings the working force into the vacant end at once. Now by managing so as to have the apartment that the queen was in always supplied with empty comb, there was no disposition to swarm. Now, read attentively Mr. Beckford's article, and also the editor's note on page 30, of the August number of the American Bee Journal, in regard to abstracting brood to prevent swarming, and you have the idea exactly; only, instead of removing this brood to other hives or colonies, we keep it in its own colony. Consequently we have gained the desired end, and still have kept all our working force at home, thus keeping our stock always strong; and strong stocks are the ones to gather honey every time.

We went into this experiment on purpose to test the hive as a non-swarmer, and we selected stocks that were extra strong and extra prolific queens. And this experiment was tried in one of the greatest swarming seasons we ever saw, and it was a perfect success, as neither of the hives cast a swarm. As soon as we got the stock well to work, there was no trouble about removing brood from one apartment to the other, as the queen passed freely into every part of the hive, of her own accord. By supplying these hives with young queens, and attending to extracting of the honey, we think that swarming would be entirely prevented.

We differ from Mr. Beckford about the early swarms, for this reason: His surplus is probably gathered from white clover—that is, the main supply, while ours is gathered from basswood (which does not come in until July) and fall flowers. Consequently early swarms is what is wanted with us, as we can get them and the parent stock into good condition in time for the harvest.

We have digressed a trifle from our subject. We tried another of our twin hives as a non-swarmer, in this manner: We removed a strong stock, combs, brood and all, into it, and filled up the vacant end with brood from other hives. The queen was an extra prolific one, and kept all the combs occupied with brood. This did not give us room to work our extractor, as we wanted to, and the bees were so numerous that

they filled the inside of the hive and both porticos were clustered full, both night and day. (Here was where we wanted the extra twenty-six frames in the cap; but we did not have it fixed for them.) Still there was no disposition to swarm, so we inserted a comb containing a sealed and nearly mature queen-cell, and the following day out came the largest swarm we ever saw. We hived it in a two-story standard hive. (Two of our standard hives, one placed on top of the other, makes a two story hive.) Right here we will state that we have repeatedly brought out swarms by the above method of inserting queen cells. In order to succeed it must be done at a time when the hive is populous with bees and brood, and the bees must be gathering forage rapidly. Many beekeepers now wish to control the increase of swarms, therefore we give our method of doing it.

ELISHA GALLUP.

Orchard, Iowa.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

The Queen Bee wiser in her Instinct than Man in his Reason.

We may study out many inventions that look very plausible and reasonable to ourselves; but when we come to apply our reason to the instinct of the queen bee, we find she does not view things in the same light as we do. My opinion is, as well might we undertake to teach a goose and gander to pair successfully forty feet up in the air or on the wing, as to undertake to teach the queen and drone to pair anywhere else than in mid-air and on the wing. They know nothing about performing their nuptial vows floundering about on *terra firma* or in confinement, where they have not plenty of sea-room, or to poise themselves in their flight and come together as their instinct teaches.

My opinion is, the queen and drone are attracted to each other by the peculiar sound of their wings, as well as manner of flight. To illustrate a little, we will take a turkey's egg, hatch it under a common barn-yard fowl, and rear it without allowing it to see any other turkey until the time for it to pair with its mate. If a hen, we will procure a male turkey and place him near the hen, but with a partition between, so that she cannot see him when he struts. The hen will show plainly by her action that she understands the meaning of that strut, although she has never seen one of her species. Now let them together, and watch their manner of courtship. We find it to be the same as in all other birds according to their kind, their own peculiar way. Just so with the queen and drone. They, too, have their own way of courting, which is high up in the air, on the wing, where they will not come in contact with wire screening or other impediments at every turn they make; but where they can sing their love song, and poise and embrace each other, according to their own peculiar instinct.

A. BENNETT.

Bennington, Ohio.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Introducing Queens.

If we had only one race of bees, and if one queen were just as good as another, it would still pay to raise queens to be used in making artificial swarms, as much precious time may be thereby saved to the bees, which would otherwise be lost in raising queens in the height of the honey harvest. But when we are aiming to raise only the best, and to make all the improvement we can, to raise and introduce queens is, to the beekeeper, a matter of very great importance. I do not propose to say anything concerning the best method of raising queens, as that has been fully discussed by many who have more experience than I have. But I wish to call the attention of the readers of the Journal to my method of introducing queens.

To introduce a queen safely, the following points should be attended to:

1. Before liberating the new queen, the bees should have time to become thoroughly aware that their former queen is gone, and that their only hope of an immediate successor is in accepting the imprisoned stranger.

2. There should be time for the new queen to acquire the scent of the hive.

3. The bees should have time to become familiar with her, and accustomed to her presence.

4. She should leave the cage when the hive is closed and the colony free from excitement.

This last item is of great importance. If the bees are excited and alarmed, and there is any lingering odor about the queen which would cause her to be recognized as a stranger, her life would be in peril.

Unless some means are employed to give the queen and the colony to which she is to be introduced, the same scent, I would not risk liberating a valuable queen in less than forty-eight hours. I have one end of my queen cage closed with a plug of wood, having a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch hole bored through it, the inner end of which is reamed out in the shape of a funnel, that the queen may the more readily find it. The hole is closed with a wooden peg. In cool weather, I prefer to put the cage down between two combs, and in the centre of the cluster. In warm weather it will do to lay it on the top of the frames, if they be not closed at top, and to cover it with a cloth or a piece of carpet. At the end of the second day, I remove the peg from the hole in the stopper, and stick over it, on the end of the stopper, a piece of paper, or of cotton cloth dipped in honey, leaving the cage in the same position it was before, and close the hive. In performing these latter operations, I disturb the bees as little as possible. The bees will soon remove the honeyed cover, and the queen will, after a time, find her way out and be gladly received.

I have introduced a great many queens in this way, and have never had the bees destroy one so introduced; and I do not believe that there is the slightest danger of queens being destroyed, if this plan is carefully carried out. I have fol-

lowed it in every month from April to December, and always with the same success.

Last September I introduced a queen on a plan upon which I propose to experiment further. I prepared some sweetened water strongly scented with peppermint, and taking some of it in my mouth, I lifted the combs up one by one, and blew the peppermint water upon them in a fine spray, so that the bees were thoroughly moistened and scented with it. Having completed this operation, and removed the old queen while doing it, I dipped the new queen into the peppermint water and put her on one of the combs. She was received without any demonstrations of hostility, and a week after I found her surrounded by her new subjects and filling up the available space in the hive with brood.

I do not advise any one to risk a valuable queen in this way. The one I so introduced was impure, and I did not care whether the bees should kill her or not.

M. MAHIN.

New Castle, Ind. Dec. 6, 1871.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Introducing Queens.

MR. EDITOR:—In almost every number of the Bee Journal I see the question raised and answered how queens are best introduced?

My experience is nothing new at all, often described by others, and once already by myself. The method is so simple and effective, and just this simplicity may be the reason why our bee-keeping brethren don't more generally use it.

I grate two good sized nutmegs, mix them up with diluted honey or sugar syrup (or sugar water) in a tumbler holding one-fourth or one-third of a pint, and set it handy. Then I go to the nucleus, cage the queen I want to introduce, and stick her with cage in my vest pocket. Now I proceed to the hive whose queen I intend to supersede, kill her, or dispose of her to suit myself. I next with a teaspoon pour from the tumbler above described enough syrup between every two frames, so as to wet slightly almost every bee in the hive. I leave enough in the tumbler to give the queen a dive in, take her out with the teaspoon, drop her between the frames, and shut the hive.

I have hardly ever made a miss, with this way of introducing. It is in summer often a loss to have a hive queenless for only two days, but with the above described process the bees apparently do not become aware that a change is made.

In the fall I should prefer introducing queens with the cage, as the absence of a queen for a few days at this season does not make so much difference to the hive, and forage being scarce other bees are easily induced to rob. Yet I have introduced queens with nutmeg successfully in the fall, shutting up the entrance with wire gauze for a few days if necessary to keep out robbers.

Last fall I introduced two queens with the nutmeg process, in the presence of brother Hulman, of Terre Haute, Indiana, when he remarked

that if he treated his bees in as reckless a manner as I did mine he should ruin his whole apiary. I wish that Mr. Hulman could have given me a call a few days later, when I could have shown him how my two queens were received.

I have often kept queens caged, together with a few workers, on the top of brood frames, until I could make the proper use of them, the queens would keep alive in some instances for weeks, while the workers generally soon died. But last fall I had a valuable queen killed in the cage on the second day, her legs being bitten off, &c. Brother Hulman suggested that the presence of the strange workers in the cage irritated the bees in the hive and caused them to attack the queen. This is reasonable, and since I cage queens alone when introducing, or when I put them for safe-keeping on brood frames.

C. F. MUTH.

Cincinnati, Jan. 15, 1872.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

An Item on Upward Ventilation.

AN EXPERIMENT IN WINTERING.

About the 20th of November we had a few days of unusually cold weather for the time of year in this latitude. It happened that some two weeks before I had equalized the honey by changing frames in several of my stocks, and had inadvertently left all the holes in the frames open in those hives. In my other hives they had all been closed with small blocks when the honey boxes were removed. On the 1st of December I put my bees in winter quarters. I was surprised to find fewer dead bees in every hive that was thus left with a free upward ventilation than in those that were closed. Noticed also that these hives were perfectly dry on the inside, while in the others, in almost every instance, ridges of ice were plainly to be seen leading from the entrance, showing that condensation had taken place within the hive, and the water had run down the sides and out of the hives.

I have on trial an experiment in wintering. It may not be new to many of your readers. I placed my hives in a double row about twelve inches apart each way, on boards covered three or four inches deep with common prairie hay. I then drove posts in the ground, to which common fence boards were tacked, so as to form a large box entirely surrounding the hives, fixed a six inch board about seven inches above the entrances, in such a way as to prevent the hay from closing the entrances to the hives, then crowded the hay all around and on top of the hives. I left half of the slats open in the frames and filled the caps with hay. Of course the result is about the same as if all my hives were buried in a hay stack with the entrances left open.

I fear that trouble may arise whenever the weather is warm enough to cause the bees to fly, from the fact that many will enter the wrong hives and thus be destroyed. As the double row extends north and south, of course the sun will

shine on each row of hives but half the day, and as the rays strike upon but a few inches of each hive, I think there will be but a few days during the winter when the bees will be warmed up enough to cause them to fly.

I have tried to winter a few stocks on their summer stands. Will give you the results of my experiments in the spring.

E. A. GASTMAN.

Decatur, Ills., Jan. 6, 1872.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

On Supplying New Swarms with Ready Made Combs.

Some beekeepers assert that supplying ready made combs to new swarms is a great advantage, while others allege that it is an actual damage. Both parties are right. Allow me to explain. If we have a swarm come out at any time when bees are gathering very little honey, and we supply them with ready made comb, the queen can at once go to depositing eggs as rapidly as she chooses, provided the bees gather just sufficient honey to keep her breeding actively, without storing any in the cells to be in her way. Now we know positively that under such circumstances ready made comb is a great advantage. On the other hand, if we have a swarm come out while the basswood is in bloom, or at any time when the bees are gathering honey rapidly, and we supply them with ready made comb they will fill it so quickly that no room is left for the queen to deposit eggs. The consequence is that the swarm, unless attended to and relieved by means of the extractor is actually ruined, for we have a hive completely filled with honey and no bees in the fall. But if we allow them to build their combs they consume so much honey in the elaboration of wax and manufacturing the combs that it gives the queen a chance to deposit eggs, and the swarm turns out to be a good one. Give us the combs ready made, and we will use it under all circumstances, and with our management and the use of the extractor call it an advantage. In fact we can see no chance for argument on this question when properly understood.

E. GALLUP.

Orchard, Iowa.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Product of a Swarm.

MR. EDITOR:—The honey season is over and our bees are put up in winter quarters. The past season has been what we here call a very fair one. I wintered seventeen colonies last winter, and increased them to thirty. More than one half of my swarms were natural ones. I aimed to keep my colonies strong, with the hives full of bees; but about the time I got them as wanted, they would swarm. The Italians are given to such tricks. Early in the honey season I selected a strong stock of Italians,

to see what I could realize from them. On the 12th of May they cast a large swarm. I put it in a two-story Thomas hive, with nine frames above and below; the lower frames ten inches deep, the upper ones eight inches deep. At the time I hived the swarm, I filled about one-half of the frames with empty combs, putting worker combs in the lower frames, and drone combs mostly in the upper set of frames.

From this swarm I took with the Extractor, two hundred and sixty-one and a half (261½) pounds of nice honey. The old stock was used for box honey. From it I took eighty-five (85) pounds. I did not extract any from this stock, but think I could have taken forty or fifty pounds of extracted honey, and the same amount (eighty-five pounds) stored in boxes.

The eighty-five pounds of box honey taken from the old stock, sold for fifteen cents per pound—making \$12.75. The two hundred and sixty-one and a half pounds taken from the swarm sold at ten cents per pound, making \$26.15. The two amounts together make \$38.90, the swarm was worth \$15.00—which, added to the foregoing, makes \$53.90; from which deduct the cost of the hive \$4.00, and it leaves \$49.90, as the net profit of one stock. I know this does not compare very favorably with Novice's three hundred and thirty (330) pounds, but I am only a young novice, while he is an old one. And you, Mr. Editor, can tell Novice that I am going to make a larger hive next year, and go for him again.

There are a great many bees in this county, and honey is very cheap here. I got from thirty colonies one thousand pounds of extracted honey, and six hundred and fifty pounds of box honey the past season.

J. P. FORTUNE.

Bloomfield, Iowa, Dec. 11, 1871.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Novel Bee Dress.

MR. EDITOR:—On our way to town, last spring, our attention and that of the old mare we were riding was attracted by a strange, grotesque figure moving about on the road, whose manœuvres were occasionally very quick and then again quite slow. As we approached it had somewhat the appearance of the Ku Klux of Robinson's circus, minus the head. Approaching nearer we saw a pair of legs in boots beneath, when any fears we might have entertained disappeared, and we learned what was going on.

A man by the name of Parrish, a near neighbor of Old Reuben Birch, had a swarm of bees come off and pitch upon the back of a *worm* rail fence. Having ineffectually tried to hive them, in doing which the enraged bees had left from ten to a dozen stings with different members of the family, he sent for old Reuben, who never failed, as he always did things according to rules laid down in the Tar river code; and it was he we saw in the road.

Well, Reuben was ensconced in the old woman's *Bal-moral*. The drawstring, instead of

being about the waist, was tightened just above the brim and around the crown of an old high top beaver. The forepart of the garment was behind; and the hind part, having a slit down it several inches, was before. The slit being near the face served as a kind of window for Reuben to peep out at. He was also armed with a long-handled broom; and the *gum* was placed on a coverlet on the ground, beneath the cluster.

Old Reuben would open a little crack of his stockade, to ascertain the exact locality of the bees, then close up, and with the broom, sweep, sweep, he would take the cluster, and a cloud of bees would in an instant be on the wing. They went for that *Bal-moral*, but down old Reuben would squat and remain motionless until things became a little settled, then peep out again to note progress. More of them settling again on the fence than went into the gum, sweep, sweep, he would again bring them down; and we had to move the old mare several rods further off as the bees were briskly circling, in search of something they *could* get at.

The KING having gone in after the lapse of about fifteen minutes *hiving*, the workers soon followed, and old Reuben, in triumph, walked to where we were standing, and as he came out from under that *Bal-moral*, the sweat was standing about in pools upon his face. We have often thought since, that we never saw a man sweat in earnest before; and feel sure that twenty minutes, on that day, under that *Balmoral*, was equal to the same length of time in Nero's cave at Naples.

H.

Murfreesboro, Tenn., Nov. 20, 1871.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

National Society of Beekeepers.

MR. EDITOR:—I agree with you that, in the absence of jealous care, there is great danger of a national society of beekeepers being so conducted as to subserve the selfish purposes only of a few individuals, whose sole object in being present at such gatherings, is that of advancing their own personal and pecuniary interests. One of the first manifestations of such a tendency, is that of some individual writing and publishing a nicely colored report of all he puts on exhibition, or of what he, or such persons as he uses for mouthpieces, say upon all subjects—a polished report which tends towards building up a prosperous business for himself. At the same time care is taken to fail to report what is either exhibited or said by others, who are not their special instruments of profit;—no matter if what these have said or done be ever so much calculated to promote the general interests of beekeeping throughout the country, far above and beyond anything that such designing persons may have said or done, either themselves or through their satellites.

This matter I thought of when the first move was made towards the organization of such a body, but never resorted to any special means of preventing such a tendency, until the North American Beekeepers' Society was organized at

Cleveland, in December 1871, at which I was a member of the Committee appointed to frame a Constitution for the general government of the society. It was, I think, agreed by all the members of the committee, that the treasury of the society should be kept sufficiently flush with means to enable its members to publish an impartial and complete report of all the proceedings and discussions. In the absence of such a report, it was thought that a national society could not do much towards promoting the general beekeeping interests of the country, and would also fall short even in benefiting its own members to the extent it could if the proceedings were printed in pamphlet form for future reference.

With this object in view, special provision for the accumulation of a treasury fund was made in article 5th, wherein it was stated that each member of the society should pay one dollar at the time of becoming a member, and one dollar annually thereafter, into the treasury. But on presenting the constitution to the society for final adoption, objections were urged against the annual payment of one dollar, and this special provision was stricken out.

Through this amendment I fear that one of the principal supports of the society has been withheld, as it seems quite clear to my mind that in the absence of funds for the special purpose of publishing our proceedings, they will remain unpublished, or be liable to be garbled just to suit designing parties, who may be connected with the organization. Thus the object contemplated, of publishing a valuable pamphlet each year, has been completely thwarted. For there can be but little benefit accruing to the beekeeping fraternity at large, out of the annual meetings of such a society, except through the medium of placing before the masses a true report of their discussions, and of the experience of many beekeepers who may, at such meetings, give a full statement of their different methods of managing bees. If its beneficial results are not to be found in this, then such an organization is not calculated to benefit any but that class of persons who have something to sell to beekeepers; and they, or a portion of them, will not fail to have everything reported in full that is calculated to put an additional feather in their caps.

These matters, as I have stated, were thought of by the committee on permanent organization; and after the means for printing our proceedings in full, were discarded, I took it upon myself to offer a resolution (which was adopted) to the effect that the proceedings of the Indianapolis, of the Cincinnati, and of the Cleveland conventions, be published in pamphlet form. It, of course, remains yet to be seen how full and impartial the report will be. Should it be of such a character as to point out selfishness on every page—such as placing certain persons and their merchandise prominently before the beekeeping public, to the exclusion of others of equal or perhaps much more merit; or placing remarks of some persons prominent before the public, not because they have done or said as much for the benefit of bee-culture as others,

but because they are instruments of profit and gain to certain parties; then I shall insist upon either a disbanding of the society, or making provision in our constitution for the publication of full and impartial reports. Should this matter be neglected, the grand object for which such a society should exist will be completely submerged.

Let me say to the Editor, that the JOURNAL is improving with each issue. Long may it live and its subscribers be increased tens of thousands annually.

G. BOHRER.

Alexandria, Ind.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Super and Nucleus Hives.

DEAR JOURNAL:—On page 154, of the Journal for January, Mr. A. Grimm, gives his methods of managing the "super hive" from which to extract honey. As I have met with the same unsatisfactory results as those which Mr. G. speaks of, in the usual mode of management, I adopted a plan entirely different from those given by him; and where an increase of stock is desired, or new combs are needed (which is often the case), I believe my plan is preferable. It is this: If available, procure a frame of straight comb, or failing in this, lift out an outside frame from the brood chamber, placing it with an empty frame on each side, on one side of the super, adjust the division board, and cover the balance of the brood chamber with a honey-board. The honey-board should be composed of two separate pieces (two widths of weather-boarding answers well), so that when it is necessary to furnish additional frames, the edge of the first may be raised over the second, and slid any required distance.

This plan for many reasons, is much better than the one usually followed, namely, that of opening up the whole super at once; as the small amount of surplus room thus given to begin with, does not tend to produce a discouraging effect on the bees, yet there is room sufficient for the effective force of wax workers to be brought into requisition. Besides, as is well known, by alternating empty with full ones, each comb is built in the frame, without being run over and attached to another, as so often happens when two empty frames are placed in the hive, side by side.

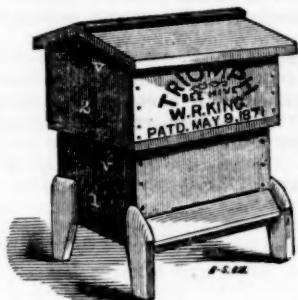
We have put up a nucleus hive *a la mode* Gallup, with not only an entrance at each side, but with a nice little portico at each entrance—painting each a different color. Would it not be an additional feature to make the division of wire cloth, as it would certainly add much to the mutual warmth? We have used such partitions when wintering two small colonies in one hive, with success. Let us have your opinion Mr. Gallup, as we "take stock" on your suggestions, having found but few of them that would not bear a practical test.

RUSTICS.

Jan., 1872.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

"Triumph" Bee Hive Description.

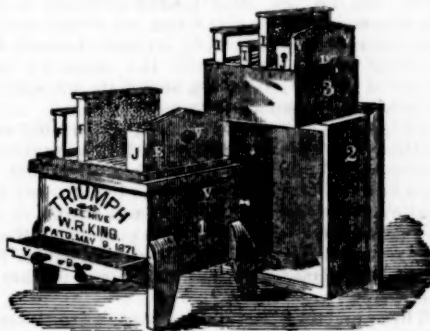


MR. EDITOR, and brother beekeepers:—According to promise, I give you a description of the Triumph hive, with cuts to illustrate it. The above cut represents a front view of the hive, which is 24 inches long, outside measurement, by 16 inches wide and 10 inches deep. The frames are hung either upon the rabbeted edges of the brood chamber, or upon strips $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch square tacked on the inner edge of the brood chamber $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch from the top. The frames are hung the narrow way of the hive, instead of lengthwise, as in the Langstroth. The advantage is that in handling new combs filled with brood and honey, there is but little danger of the combs falling out of the frames, as is frequently the case with longer frames. We use from ten to fourteen of these frames, as circumstances require. We have a partition board in either one or both ends of the hive, that fits closely in the chamber, yet is perfectly easy to slide either back or forth, for the purpose of contracting or enlarging at will, the brood chamber. The frames are made of strips $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick. The top piece is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. We cut three-thirty-seconds of an inch off both edges of this top piece, commencing $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from each end. This is to let the bees pass into the surplus chamber above. The end pieces are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The bottom piece is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. The end pieces of the frame have a little cleat or block $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square and 1 inch long tacked on their bottom edges on both sides. This prevents the frames from touching each other, excepting at these points and at either end at the top. The frames are thus made to fit up close against each other at the points named, yet leaving space for bees to pass above, between, and all around them. We now slide our partition board up against them from either end, placing wedges behind it. The brood chamber is thus formed, and by so arranging it, we secure the frames in such a manner as to be able to ship the hive filled with bees and comb to any part of the United States or Canada, without any danger of the combs being broken down. In November, last, I shipped 43 colonies from Milton, Ky., to this place (over two hundred miles), by boat fifty miles, and by rail-

road one hundred and fifty, and they were hauled one mile in wagons, and not one comb was broken down; besides there were not more than one-fourth of a pint of dead bees in all the hives put together. I simply pressed my wedges in tight, putting a nail in each of them to keep them in place. There were no frames to be nailed down. One dozen "Triumph" hives can be prepared for shipping in the same time you would be preparing one of any other kind, differently arranged.

We use the hive both with and without a wire bottom. The wire used is No. 8, and is tacked to the sides and ends of the hive $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch from the bottom of the frames, covering the whole bottom. Underneath the wire bottom we have a drawer or receiver, to receive all the chippings of comb and filth thrown down by the bees. This drawer has strips of tin, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, tacked on to its edges all around, extending over the inside. *This is our moth trap.* Of course there are many worms that pass into this drawer, and unless it is cleansed at least once in ten days, they will accumulate until they fill the drawer to the wire above with web, and then they can return to the brood chamber. I would advise any one who will not look after his bees to use the hive without the wire bottom and drawer; but those that will cleanse it, will find that it is of great advantage, as by means of it we keep the bottom of our hive perfectly clean, without interfering with the bees. We also more successfully ventilate the hive, as will be seen by examining the following cut.

SECTIONAL VIEW.



This cut shows a sectional view of the hive with fig. 2, the cap, off. Figure 3, represents the surplus honey chamber resting on the top of the cap, with three of the surplus frames pulled up in it. This chamber has a partition board with wedges. The frames in it are only $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, but are of the same length as those in the brood chamber, and can be used in the brood chamber for feeding purposes. These surplus frames fit closely in the chamber, being suspended on the top edge. We use no honey-board, so-called, *except in winter.*

The patented features in this hive are the ventilators and the perforated division boards, which are used in a large hive not represented in these cuts, but which I will explain hereafter. The

claims as granted read thus: *First, the air spaces, W, W, and ventilators, Z, Z, arranged in either end of the hive, with air space W, and ventilator Z of the upper chamber substantially as herein set forth. Second, the perforated division boards, H, H, arranged on either side of the centre of the chamber A (brood chamber) cut-off, I arranged to operate as and for the purposes set forth.* In the first claim the objects set forth are that we may effectually control the ventilation of the hive, and at the same time we prevent others from securing frames in the hives in like manner. The air spaces W, W, spoken of, are the space between the partition boards and the ends of the hive, both in the brood chamber and surplus honey chamber. The perforated division boards are used in a hive 40 inches long, outside measure, and exactly of the same depth and width as the one above described. This hive has three entrances, one in the centre, and one six inches from either end. We form our brood chamber in the centre of the hive by putting in 14 brood frames.

For further particulars, address

W. R. KING.

Franklin, Ky.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Natural, Hardy, Prolific Queens.

MY LAST BLOW.

No doubt it was in order to puff his *reversible, removable, double cased, sectional casket, movable comb hive*, that Mr. J. M. Price, after worrying his brain, found no other way to attract attention than to give a writ of imbecility to all the beekeepers who make artificial swarms or raise artificial queens; claiming that they act against *reason, nature and common sense*.

That theory, respecting natural, prolific and hardy queens, inflated with hyperboles and misstatements, had no more power of resistance than the red inflated balloons of our children. Verity, with one touch of a pin, caused it to collapse completely. Mr. Price, in the American Bee Journal for November, tries to inflate it anew by similar means, adding calumny thereto.

I beg the reader to remember that in the number of the A. B. J. for January, 1871, page 163, Mr. Price says that he has tested his method for *five years*. In the number for November, nearly a year later, he says he has tested it for *two years*. He erred in the first case, or he erred in the second.

In the A. B. J. for September, 1868, and in that for January, 1869, Mr. P. says this experience is to make *ten swarms from one*, and that *every swarm raised its own queen*. In the same Journal for November, 1871, he says that he *never* raised artificial queens in small swarms, but used only his largest and most vigorous stocks. What is that, if not a second error?

Mr. Price cites Gallup as sustaining the same views as himself. Yet I have already pointed out the ideas of Mr. Gallup, such as I find them

in an article published by him in October, 1870. He says—"A queen cell built over an egg and fed as a queen from the start, I have not been able to discover why they are not as good as natural queens raised at swarming time." What shall I call such voluntary mistakes of Mr. Price?

Further on Mr. P. asserts that Novice bought twenty-five queens from Mr. Adam Grimm, to replace his queens, because they were too old, after seventeen months. Yet nowhere did Novice say that his queens were too old; but that he replaced hybrid queens. See A. B. J. for November, 1870, page 100. Is not that a fourth error?

I could make more similar quotations, but these are sufficient to show the truthfulness of Mr. Price.

As to the tested queen that Mr. P. did get from me in the beginning of June for six dollars, she was, before leaving Hamilton, one of the most prolific in my apiary. What experiments did he make with her, when she came into his hands? The reader can read partial accounts of these in the A. B. J. for January, 1871. In that number Mr. P. shows that that queen was the first Italian he had ever seen, and that she was also the first he had ever introduced in all his life. He was then so little acquainted with introducing queens that, after he received her, he looked over the back numbers of the A. B. J., to find the way to introduce her. He states that he put her on a comb of sealed brood, without bees, except those that accompanied her, and placed the hive near his stove. Then, after dark he looked her over and concluded to shake the bees off seven stands at the entrance of her hive; and that the second day after, he changed his mind and placed her, caged, in another hive which had the swarming impulse. And he dwells for more than a column on his unskilful precautions, showing his inexperience in the matter.

So, that unhappy queen, wearied by her journey, had to endure being handled and carried from one hive to another, and bear all the bungs of Mr. Price, together with ill treatment from the bees of seven hives, more or less ill disposed towards her. And, finally, she had to suffer the pinchings of bees under the swarming impulse—which forced her to lead out a swarm 94 days after her introduction, and *nearly four days before the first queen cell was capped over!*

Is there any queen breeder who would guarantee the prolificness of his queens, knowing them to be in such blundering hands as those of Mr. Price?

So little did I promise to replace her, and so little did Mr. Price believe that I made such a promise, that, when asking from me another queen, he added—"If you can, let me know, *with price*." With this, I enclose to the editor two letters of Mr. P. Indeed, I wrote to Mr. P. that probably the queen would be better in spring. Knowing the dealings of the man, I did hope that before spring, the queen, recovering from maltreatment, would have reinforced her hive, so as to be in better condition.

But was the queen as unprolific as Mr. P.

asserts? Is she dead, as he alleges? The repeated misstatements of that bee bungler give us the right of doubting these allegations.

I never refused to replace her; but I did refuse to sell a second queen to Mr. Price, for he had made too much unwarranted fuss about the first.

Mr. Price can, if he chooses, send my letter of refusal to the editor, whom I authorize to publish it, and to treat me as a falsifier if the facts are not as I represent them.

Proposing a theory before having sufficiently tested it, sustaining his ideas by false allegations, and then calumniating his opponent, are means ill calculated to entitle any one to a claim to be considered a true gentleman.

What think you of it, friend beekeepers?

CH. DADANT.

November 3d, 1871.

P. S.—As many beekeepers may not know what I mean by the "pinching of bees during the swarming fever," I wish to give my experience in explanation.

Two years ago, while experimenting with the Quinby queen yard to prevent swarming, the bees of one hive under experiment tried to swarm. The queen, which had her wings cut, could not follow and was kept a prisoner in the queen yard. While the bees were on the wing, I opened the hive and cut out every queen cell. A few days after the bees swarmed anew, and I saw them pinching and biting the poor queen, to force her to follow the swarm. I opened the hive again, and destroyed all the incipient queen cells. The bees swarmed a third time, and I had the greatest difficulty to rescue the queen, and the next night she was killed and cast out of the hive.

During all that swarming fever, the queen, worried by the bees, had deposited very few eggs; and the bees remained idle in the hive. I did not get an ounce of surplus honey from that stock.

I do not present this experiment to help my cause. The editor can read an account of it in the French "Journal des Fermes" for July, 1870, page 307, where I related it.

Similar pinchings were, without doubt, brought to bear against my queen; for she was introduced in a hive during the swarming impulse. In one of the letters which I send to the Editor, Mr. Price says that she was put in a colony he was experimenting with raising queen cells. I beg the reader to remark how discordant that word "experimenting," is with his method tested "five years."

Another proof that my queen endured the pinchings of the bees, is, that she led out a swarm four days before any queen cells were capped over. And Mr. Price wonders at the occurrence!

After having swarmed, my queen was not protected against the hardships inflicted on her by her new possessor. He writes, in one of the letters I send to the Editor, that every morning and every evening, for weeks, he removed every comb containing brood or eggs, and replaced them with frames of empty comb—even remov-

ing such as she had commenced to lay in. He adds—"At no time did she lay during any twelve hours more than a two or three inch circle could cover. A circle of two or three inches, in diameter, gives nearly three hundred eggs for twelve hours, or six hundred in twenty-four hours, or nine thousand bees in fifteen days. This was in the last fortnight of July, a time of the greatest drought.

A man who wishes to kill his dog gives him a bad name; but the laying of the queen was somewhat better than represented by Mr. P., who had every interest to find my queen less prolific than his; for she was an artificial queen, and he had already proclaimed his theory.

Besides, in the American Bee Journal for January, 1871, Mr. P. says that—"About the first of September she commenced to do a little better." We thus find that that poor queen, so much traduced in words and abused in acts, was not, to sum up all, near so bad as she was proclaimed to be.

I have seen queens, very prolific in April and May, deposit fewer eggs in July, August, and September, than the queen in question. I guess the Editor would be a competent judge in that matter, and likely to think that changing combs every twelve hours, would interfere with the laying while the queen was reconnoitering the newly introduced combs.

I have one remark more to add, and I am done. In his letter, Mr. J. M. Price says that he obtained seven queens "all good" and prolific, and in the American Bee Journal he says, that one of the seven was "wingless." Which of these is the true statement?

In all my discussions with Mr. Price, I wrote with proofs in hand. If he does not show his proofs against me, I will hold him a calumniator.

C. D.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

A Little Plain Talk.

MR. EDITOR:—Do let me hit Novice just a little, for I want to know what effect it will have. On page 27 of the August number he says: "*Many are working and thinking of a hive with the proper number of frames spread out horizontally, so that no upper story will be in the way,*" and then he mentions me as of that number. When I got up my hive, I sent a description of it to some twenty individuals, whom I knew were using my style of frame, and requested them to try it; and among the rest I sent a very private description to Novice. Well, I received a very short reply, stating that he did not think it would work, the arrangement was too cold, &c., &c. We were perfectly satisfied then, that he had not paid attention enough to our description to understand it; and on reading his arrangement of his eight American hive (which he calls more compact than Gallup's) we felt very much as though we ought to have sent a description of our hive by telegraph to the North Pole (suppose they have a telegraph attached to

that pole by this time), so that we could have received the opinion of an Esquimaux or a Kamshatean, along with Novice's opinion of our hive. Why, Mr. Editor, only think of his comparing our hive to an American hive, and deciding that the latter, as arranged by him, was much the best! We were just as mad as our skin could hold. But to return to our story. His remarks have called out quite a large private correspondence, and it is for the purpose of making some explanations to said correspondents that I commence this article.

The reader will understand that Novice set his two sets of frames in this manner—one set by the side of the other; while we set one set of frames directly in the rear of the other—quite a different arrangement in our estimation. Now any one using the Kidder, Thomas, or almost any square frame can try the experiment with one or two hives; and we are not sure but even the American will work with our arrangement. Make your outer case long enough to hold two sets of frames, one set directly in the rear of the other, and have an entrance in the front and rear ends, just alike. Have the passages through the centre board, between the two sets of frames, clear across the centre and also at the bottom of said centre board. Now, by closing these passages, either end is in the same fix as a single hive, so far as a swarm of bees is concerned; and in fact, if we keep those passages closed, we can work two swarms of bees in this double hive. So we certainly need not throw it away, but keep it as a curiosity, if for nothing more; still, we believe it will work for one swarm satisfactorily. Now as soon as this swarm is populous enough, and the weather is right for storing and extracting, fill up the rear end with worker comb, remove two or three cards containing unsealed brood into the rear end, replacing in the front end empty worker comb. Now, revolve this hive half around, bringing the rear entrance to the front. (Of course the rear entrance has been kept closed up to this time.) Now what was the front has become the rear. Nearly close this end and open the other, and you bring the whole working force into the vacant end at once, instead of waiting for them to take possession of an upper story (as we sometimes have to do). We have, as the little girl says, *foolished* them; and they are not even aware of it, as both ends are exactly alike. Thus we have the novelty of a swarm of bees departing from one end and arriving loaded at the other. Before admitting the bees to both ends, or at that time, we open the centre passages. Now keep the brood about equally divided, part in one end and part in the other, and in the centre of each apartment, with the empty combs at the sides of the hive. If a novice does not know how to get up a good strong stock of bees in the double hive, let him proceed in this manner: Take brood nearly ready to hatch from other stocks, and fill up the vacant end, time enough before the honey harvest commences, to have them on hand to help to store honey. A large colony, in any hive for storing, should have a good, young and prolific queen. It is useless to work a small, weak swarm with perhaps, a worthless queen in a

large hive, expecting great results. Now, we do not say that every one will like this arrangement of frames, but we say that, so far, we are very much pleased with it, and from our experiments last summer, we are pretty confident that we can control swarming to suit ourselves, in such hives. Mr. D. L. Adair has worked his sections in this manner for years, if we rightly understood him. We do not advise everyone to go into this arrangement extensively; but make a trial of it at first with a few hives. The only thing that we were disappointed in was this: Some of our queens occupied the entire twenty-six frames with brood, which left very little room to store honey, and this was the very reason why our thirty-two frame hive gave us the best satisfaction. Now, after taking into consideration your honey resources, and trying some few of these hives, take into consideration also the extraordinary yield of honey in this locality, and the enthusiasm of your humble servant. Each individual must judge for himself whether this hive will suit him.

E. GALLUP.

Orchard, Iowa.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

A Few Inquiries.

ED. BEE JOURNAL:—Will you allow me to ask Mr. W. R. King, of Kentucky some questions with reference to his description of the fertilizing house, &c., that he used last summer, and described in the February number of the Journal, p. 177.

1st. Why do you put sweetened water and honey into old honey combs and place them on a shelf in the house (fertilizing room) if the workers are not permitted to fly in the room?

2d. Is there no danger of the queens entering the wrong hive, fertilizing box, and destroying each other when they return from their wedding flight, if several are in the house at the same time? And if so, how can it be prevented?

3d. Must the top of the house be dark colored and why?

Brown muslin would be more durable and it could be painted, which would make it still better to turn the rain.

And now, Mr. Editor, I intend to construct a fertilizing house next summer upon Mr. King's plan. I failed with N. C. Mitchell's plan, but it might have been my own fault. I will try it again, if I live. I like the Journal *first-rate*, having been a constant reader for five years; I would not take five times what it costs for the knowledge that may be gathered from its pages.

I wish that the Journal would make its visits oftener than it does. Say semi-monthly. I for one will be willing to pay double the present price. Will Novice please tell me where he gets his glass honey jars or cans, I want the best and handiest kind. Put me on the track.

JOHN GARDNER.

Mt. Gilead, Ohio, February 15, 1872.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Italians in Supers.

MR. EDITOR:—In the November number of the Bee Journal the report of the Michigan Beekeepers' Convention makes me say that "Italian bees could not be made to work in boxes. This is a great mistake. Thanks to Mr. Grimm for expressing his doubt in the January number of my being the author. I suppose the large amount of box honey made by Italian bees which he saw at my home apiary a few years ago is his reason for the doubt.

Any one having the proper knowledge can get more box honey from any Italian bees I have seen yet than from black bees. I can get all the extracted honey taken out of the hive put back again in boxes if desirable. All beekeepers should acquire the knowledge to manage any stock or variety of bees in any condition, so as to have all the different departments of labor carried on with perfect success. If any colony need wax it can be supplied by causing them to secrete it. The cappings of the honey combs, wax standing in the sun partially melted, and melted wax cooled off with sugar grains, to keep the particles of wax separate, can be used as a substitute in a hurrying time. Of course none but experts will know when it is needed, or how it is used.

It has yet to be satisfactorily proven by disinterested apirians that the light colored, "beautiful, gentle Italian bee that does not sting" will not secrete as much or more wax, or not work in boxes as well as the dark Italians or the black bees. The common reason why some fail to get the Italians to work in boxes as well as the blacks is they work earlier in the spring, later in the fall, and in cool atmosphere, when the blacks do not. The nights being cool, and few bees in the hive at the time, they store the honey in the centre of the hive. If the honey is extracted at the right time, or the combs changed with the cold blooded blacks it will benefit these as well as the Italians. The extracted honey will be clear gain.

Mr. Grimm says on same page: "box honey is most convenient for transportation to market." This is certainly not the case in this section, as we have to accompany our shipments of box honey and handle with great care to keep it from breakage and stealings. This is not so necessary with extracted. The arctic explorers, or the shippers to cold climates, would surely choose a well cured, good, solid article of extracted honey. All dealers would certainly dispense with boxes and wax if they acquire the knowledge, and more especially in the tropics. How will it be with boxes with wax combs? Does it break in the cold? Or does the moth worm hatch out of wax in hot climates? Saying nothing about packing of boxes of combs for the market, or the rough handling, or the smashing up, or the leaking, or the stealing of the boxes by railroad or boatmen.

Having sold our honey, and owning no right to sell hives, we have nothing in the bee line to

sell. Will advertise in the Bee Journal when we do have.

Correspondents sending us questions, when the information requested is all on their side, may send stamp, or we may answer only in the BEE JOURNAL.

J. M. MARVIN.

St. Charles, Illa.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

The Monarda-punctata.

MR. EDITOR:—You must excuse me for troubling you again about that bee plant the *monarda-punctata*.

I was out again and gathered about three ounces of the seed, which took me about one-half of a day to gather and rub out. I made more particular inquiries about the plant, this time.

It blooms the second year.

Mr. Bailey, who lives in that vicinity, and has kept bees for the last fourteen years, has not lost a swarm in the winter during that time, and attributes his success in wintering his bees, mainly to the *monarda-punctata*.

He had a swarm come off on the 3d of August, this year, which has filled its hive with comb and honey from this plant, and is in good condition for wintering.

Other beekeepers in the vicinity seem to be equally successful. Inclosed find a sample of honey from this plant, kindly presented by Mr. Bailey; who thinks it is nearly pure, as there were scarcely any other plants in the vicinity from which honey could be obtained.

This plant produces honey in abundance, and is in bloom from the middle of July until frost comes in the fall.

Bees in other localities about here (except where there was buckwheat) have not done so well. From the middle of July they seemed to be falling off in weight, and are not as heavy at the present time, as they were in July. I think that accounts for so many stocks dying in winter, except in the district where the *monarda* abounds.

I think the name horse-mint will mislead a good many. The horse-mint of this country grows all over the State, even amongst the *monarda*. It grows about three feet high, and bees do not work on it here. It has only one head on each branch. I think this is probably the horse-balm.

JAMES MCCLAY.

Madison, Wis., Oct. 14, 1871.

The sample of honey from the *monarda*, accompanying this communication, is a beautifully transparent, slightly amber colored, and well-flavored article. The introduction of the plant in suitable soils, would doubtless be advantageous to bee-culture, if it yields honey as abundantly as represented. We should be pleased to receive a specimen of the other plant, called horse-mint in that country.—[Ed.]

A Kansas bee tree yielded 300 pounds of honey.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Non-Flying Fertilization.

MR. EDITOR :—On page 177 present volume A. B. Journal, W. R. King gives his mode of fertilization in confinement, and says make the house eight feet high, board floor and planked up two feet high all round.

I wish to ask Mr. King why he boards up the sides two feet? Would it not be as good only six feet high and cloth from bottom to top, so that two widths yard wide cotton will do. Why the board floor? Would not a smooth dirt or sawdust floor do as well and cost less? Also, why does he put the dark calico over the top? Would not the whole room be better of cotton? If the bright sun rays would attract the bees to the top would it not do to place it under the shade of some thick shady tree. Again, why place the old combs on a shelf filled with sweetened waters? He says there is to be no bees let fly in this house except the queen and drones; were queen and drones ever known to take food away from home? Mr. King please tell us through the Journal—next number—as we want to be getting ready in time.

H. NESBIT.

Cynthiana, Harrison Co., Ky. Feb. 15, 1872.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

A Temporary Bee Room.

Our cellar is a very wet one naturally; in fact there are two springs in its bottom, from which water rises most of the time during the year. Hence, at first thought one would consider this a rather unfavorable place to rig up for a winter depository for bees. But we had the bottom covered four inches thick, with small stones, and then cemented on top of this so that we have a nice dry bottom now—the water passing off to the drain between the rocks, which afford complete drainage. It was not convenient to have a room partitioned off permanently in our cellar, as it would be very much in the way during summer; so we have made one temporarily, as follows: We put down scantling, one inch by three, on the cement, where we wanted our partition, and on this we set our posts (joists 2x2), and nailed them to the sleepers above; then “too nailed” them to the scantling at the bottom, leaving space for door at one side. On these posts we nailed pieces of 1x3 scantling, one piece at the bottom the whole length, and 2 feet 9 inches above we nailed another piece of the same, and so on to the top. We then put on heavy untarred sheathing paper, three feet wide, tacking it to the pieces of scantling at each edge, just enough to keep it from falling. When all was on, we went over it and tacked on laths lengthwise where each two sheets met, which holds it firmly in place. The door to close the entrance, is a scantling frame covered with the paper, like the walls. A wooden tube lets in air from outdoors, while an eight inch funnel (made by bending a

piece of the same sheathing paper up, and securing it in place by driving small tacks through the paper into a narrow strip of wood along the inside,) passes from the bee-room up into the room above, and connects with the flue of a chimney. Shelves are arranged in the inside, on which our bees are passing the winter in perfect quiet, and enjoying a clear, dry and wholesome atmosphere. A man will take the whole thing down in two hours in the Spring, and pack it away for another winter.

COST OF THE STRUCTURES.

20 yards of paper.....	75 cents.
50 feet joist and scantling..	75 “
1 day's work of man..	1 50

\$3 00

G. W. P. JERRARD.

Levant, Me., Dec., 1871.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Answer to A. Grimm's Puzzle.

Sometime last August I removed a fertile queen from a nucleus for the purpose of rearing another from a cell which I had ready to insert. Next day I opened this nucleus to insert a cell, and found the bees all quiet. I had not then time to ascertain the cause of this quietness, but inserted the cell. Two days after I opened the nucleus again to see whether this cell had hatched. The cell was destroyed, and the bees were all quiet. I then made an examination, and on the second frame found a well known queen with defective wings laying profusely. I knew at once where this queen came from. Four feet directly in the rear of this nucleus stood another, with a defective wing queen that could not fly. As she was a fine and large one I hated to kill her, and while thus hesitating Mr. W. R. King visited my apiary. I showed him this queen, and told him my intention to kill her. He, however, advised me not to do it, but to pile saw dust around that nucleus, or spread a cloth around if I had not the saw dust. I did the latter, and missing the queen from the nucleus I immediately inserted a cell in it, thinking that she was lost. But I was glad to find her again and fertilized.

I had a few days previously received some drones from Mr. Nesbit, and distributed them among these nuclei. This queen must doubtless have met the drones on the ground, for I pitched her up in the air to show a company of visitors that she could not fly. I have her now in a full stand, and saw her last week all right. The queen I took out of that nucleus was sent off.

R. M. ARGO.

Lowell, Ky., Jan. 9, 1872.

The Michigan farmer, who, in addition to his profits from produce, made this season, three thousand dollars by the sale of his honey, has derived as much income from mere *beeing* as from actual doing.

THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.

Washington, March, 1872.

Death of Samuel Wagner.

READERS OF THE BEE JOURNAL:—Your dear old friend, the honored editor of the American Bee Journal, is dead. On Saturday, February 17th, he awoke early, partially dressed himself, and was talking pleasantly with his wife, when he was suddenly seized with shortness of breath, soon became unconscious, and in less than fifteen minutes breathed his last. The physician pronounced his disease to be aneurism of the heart. He had complained for more than a year of pain and numbness, interfering greatly at times with the use of his pen.

A noble, unselfish, good man has fallen. In the full vigor of his intellect, with judgment unimpaired, and memory wonderfully tenacious. Nearly seventy-three years old! How few of the readers of the Journal could have imagined that its vigorous editorials and wise management were the products of a man who had reached an age when most men are comparatively useless.

If he could have chosen for himself, it would have been to die thus with the harness on; to pass by the shortest transition from useful happy work to the better land.

Few know how much Mr. Samuel Wagner has done for the promotion of bee-culture in America. Being able to read the German fluently*—indeed, until he was nearly ten years old he spoke no English—he had taken all the numbers of the *Bienenzeitung* and other German bee journals, from their origin. His library is unquestionably the choicest repository in America, of German bee literature, and probably the fullest in this department, of any private library in the world. Better acquainted with the history and literature of bee-culture than any man in America, perhaps than any living man—seldom if ever forgetting a single fact once lodged in his extraordinary memory; he was so modest† and reserved, that only those who knew him well, understood the wide range of his reading and investigation.

Unselfish to an unusual degree, he cared comparatively little for money or applause, but kept steadily

* We forgot in the February number of the American Bee Journal, to give the proper credit to Mr. Wagner for his translations from the *Bienenzeitung*, given in the article on the Berlepsch frames.

† It is with deep regret that we announce that no likeness exists of our venerable friend. He shrank so instinctively from everything having the least appearance of personal display, that he could never be prevailed on to allow his portrait to be taken.

in view the advancement of the true interests of bee-culture, making his varied information contribute to the wider diffusion of all that pertained to the true theory and practice of his favorite pursuit. While specially familiar with everything pertaining to this subject, he was well versed in the civil history of his country, and intimately with the ecclesiastical history of the German Reformed Church, in which he had served for many years as an honored elder. There were few subjects, indeed, on which he could not converse with ease, and by the extent, variety and remarkable accuracy of his information, he was one of the most delightful companions to all who enjoyed the pleasure of his acquaintance.

It is very difficult to realize that all these stores of instructive and entertaining knowledge lie buried in his tomb, and nothing but a firm belief in the wisdom and goodness of that merciful Father, in whom he trusted, can reconcile us to his loss. He who hath brought "life and immortality to light in the Gospel," knows best when and how to summon his children to their unclouded splendor.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

Samuel Wagner was born at York, Pennsylvania, August 17th, 1798. His father was at that time pastor of the German Reformed Church in that borough. Having accepted a call from the German Reformed congregation at Frederick, Maryland, he removed there. Mr. Wagner there attended the parochial school attached to the church. In 1810, his father resigned, owing to ill health, and returned to York, where he shortly after died. Mr. Wagner was then sent to the York County Academy, where he received his education. After leaving the academy, he engaged for some years in mercantile pursuits. In 1824, he purchased the York Recorder. In 1829, he sold the York Recorder to Mr. T. C. Hamley, and removed to Lancaster, where in 1830, he established the Lancaster Examiner. Receiving the offer of the cashiership of the York Bank, he sold the Examiner to Hammersley & Richards, and returned to York, holding the position of cashier till April, 1862. In 1863, he accepted the position of disbursing officer of the Senate. Resigning this position in 1868, he, for the few remaining years of his life, devoted all his energies to the editing and management of the American Bee Journal, which was to him a labor of love.

Accident to Rev. L. L. Langstroth.

On Friday, January 26th, Mr. Langstroth fell and had his left foot severely injured by the wheel of a street railroad car. He was on his way to my father's house, and was at once brought here by the superintendent of the railroad. At first, it was feared that all the toes except the large one would have to be entirely amputated, as the bones of all of them were broken; the small toes were deeply lacerated by the

flange of the wheel, and several bones on the instep broken. From the first, however, he has suffered comparatively little pain from so severe an accident, and the wound has healed so favorably, that no operation will be needed. A very heavy boot alone saved his foot from being crushed to a jelly.* The articles from Mr. Langstroth's pen, written while confined to his bed, will be gratifying to our readers, and we cannot but esteem it providential that he was here when my father died, and able to prepare the obituary which appears in this number.

G. S. WAGNER.

To the Friends of the American Bee Journal.

It is hardly necessary to say, that the American Bee Journal will not die with Mr. Wagner. He was maturing a plan for illustrating it largely, so as to place it in the very front rank of progress and improvement; and was promising himself the pleasure of relief from the mere drudgery of business details, while he devoted himself more exclusively to his work as editor. His journal will continue to be conducted in the interest of no hive or clique, but will be the same honest, intelligent and reliable publication that it has been from the commencement, its pages open to every man who has any decent utterance for or against any hive or any theory in bee-culture—such a publication, in short, as the intelligent beekeepers of America demand and will have.

The readers of the American Bee Journal, who have so often feasted on its treasures, and who feel how much they are indebted to it for success in their favorite pursuit, will doubtless be anxious to know how they can best show their appreciation of the pre-eminent services which the late Mr. Samuel Wagner has rendered to the cause of bee-culture. Friends, rally round the Journal! Let all arrearages be promptly paid up, and let every one try, with that hearty determination which commands success, as soon as possible to remit money for new subscribers. That you may be the more zealous in so doing, bear in mind, that for a considerable time Mr. Wagner published this journal, not only without any remuneration for his services as editor, but at a considerable pecuniary loss. At last it has become more than self-supporting; its list of subscribers has grown more rapidly of late than ever before, and is one of the most permanent of any periodical in the land. Not by puffing and other more questionable methods so widely practiced by papers which have no real merit, but by honest, persistent, intelligent work, he had reached a point, where it seemed that his largest expectations would be fully realized; that the American Bee Journal would

* Mr. Langstroth has for years when travelling purchased tickets of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company. He did so on this trip, which entitles him to thirty dollars a week while he is laid aside from attention to his business.

not only do a great work for the beekeepers of this land, but would afford him a support in his old age, and be a valuable property to be bequeathed to his family.

I know too well the large number of generous men who appreciate this journal, to doubt that they will now come forward with new zeal, and will, both as a duty and a labor of love, do all that needs to be done to carry out his plans, and thus continue to make Samuel Wagner's American Bee Journal the highest standard of authority in everything pertaining to practical and scientific bee-culture.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

Washington, Feb. 22, 1872.

Sugar Syrup Dysentery and the Hruschka.

Novice's observations, shown to me by Mr. Wagner, that bees when wintered on sugar syrup, in their first flight do not discharge feces like those fed on honey, is entirely new to me. I have repeatedly wintered stocks on sugar syrup, having in one very poor season fed it to nearly one hundred colonies, which, in the month of September, had only a few weeks' supply of food on hand. If properly prepared and seasonably fed, it seems to answer, to say the least, as well as honey. Both Mr. Wagner and myself have this winter had numerous letters, informing us that the mortality among bees from dysentery has been unusually severe. Several persons have attributed it to the large quantities of new cider stored up by the bees. In many localities, large quantities of very thin honey were gathered too late to be thickened or sealed over by the bees. This thin honey in cold weather soon becomes thinner still, and then by fermentation sours, and is almost sure death to bees, especially if they are entirely confined to their hives. I believe that the Hruschka will probably afford us an effectual remedy against this cause of dysentery; for all this thin honey can be emptied, and if the bees have not sufficient winter stores, it may be replaced with sugar syrup. The thin honey may be reduced by heat to a proper consistency, to be used as spring food, or perhaps at once safely fed to the colonies from which it was taken. There is often enough of this late gathered honey to injure, if not entirely destroy a colony which has enough winter food without it.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

NOTE.—It seems to me that Mr. Gallup, or some other correspondent of the Journal, has emptied the thin honey to protect their bees from dysentery, but I cannot refer at this time to their communication.

✎ We hope shortly to present to our readers translations of some unedited letters of Huber, which are full of interesting facts relating to the experiments of that great apiarist. They will be accompanied with notes by the Rev. L. L. Langstroth.

Mel in ore, verba lactis,
Fel in corde, fraus in factis.

Medieval Latin.

With honeyed lips and creamy words,
His heart is gall, and all his acts are frauds.

Personal—"Homer A. King, the Eminent
Apiarian.*"

Those of my readers who saw the American Bee Journal for April, 1871, are aware that in stating the matters at issue between Mr. King and myself, I used no language in the least derogatory to his personal character, or that by the severest construction could be deemed lacking in courtesy towards him. Had he chosen to carry on in the same spirit, the controversy as to the validity of the Langstroth patent, and his alleged infringement upon it, nothing would have appeared in the columns of his paper or of the American Bee Journal which might not properly have been said by Christian gentlemen. So soon, however, as Mr. Otis refused to listen to his propositions for compromises, and I assured him personally that nothing short of a legal decision sustaining or invalidating the Langstroth patent would ever satisfy the beekeeping public, he began to assail me and the late Samuel Wagner, who had so ably exposed the worthlessness of his patents, with the most bitter personalities; to represent me as the mere introducer of foreign inventions, and as sustained by Mr. Wagner in patenting them as my own, in order to deprive others of the honor which was their due. In the December number of his paper, these attacks were brought to a focus, intended if possible to consume us. Not contented with assuming that the works of Debeauboys, Munn and Berlepsch had fully anticipated all my claims, he suggested that I had procured the re-issue of my patent through a purchasable patent office examiner, and that Mr. Wagner had aided me by his knowledge of German bee-culture, to patent a foreign invention as my own. He even went so far as to insinuate that I was acquainted with one Backhaus, to whom Berlepsch says he sent some hives with frames in 1851, thus endeavoring to strengthen the conjecture of the Baron, that I copied my invention from him.

"Cælum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt."

The same unscrupulousness which he has shown in all this controversy in this country, he carried with him over the ocean, and by the grossest misrepresentations, induced an honorable man to assail publicly one who had always spoken of him with respect.

"Alas!

Some minds improve by travel—others rather
Resemble copper wire or brass,
Which gets the narrower by going farther."

If, in his abuse of a man who less than a year ago he professed to love almost as well as David

* See Fowler's Journal of Phrenology, Feb., 1871, p. 123.

loved Jonathan, he had ventured to insinuate that I had something to do with the loss of his stolen documents, it would not have surprised me, for this would have been mild compared with his attempt to fasten upon me the brand of perjury, bribery, subornation of perjury and swindling; perjury, in swearing to the invention of another as my own; bribery and subornation of perjury, in purchasing of a sworn official a reissue to which I was not entitled; and swindling, in selling to the public a patent to which I had no valid title.

When this December number came to my house, freighted as it were with maledictions, aimed not merely at my property and rights, but at my reputation, and that of the most noble and generous of friends, I was laid aside from all ability to use either mind or body to any advantage; suffering from a cruel malady, to which I have been subject from my college days, and which has caused the loss of more than one-half of my time for the last twenty or more years—when this deadly missive came to my house, my family hesitated for some time to put it into my hands, dreading its effect upon me in my suffering condition. Deciding at length that it would be wrong to withhold it, it was given to me for perusal. Thank God! instead of harming me, it proved the very best of tonics; nay, rather like an *electric shock*, it raised me from my torpor, set my mind almost instantaneously to work, and shortened by months the usual length of my attacks, so that soon, pen in hand, I was devising what reply ought to be made to its many misrepresentations.

Could I for a moment forget that less than a year ago, this Homer A. King, professed, *after notice had been served upon him of the Otis suit*, the most unbounded friendship for me; that I had published nothing which might not have been said against the most honorable opponent, and that when he found that I would not impede the efforts of Mr. Otis to test the validity of my patent—"only this and nothing more"—he fell upon me with fury, and in almost every number of his paper sought to consign me to "the bottomless pit of public condemnation." (See June, 1871, No. of his paper). No! I could not forget, that to these charges I had made no reply, and that his audacity seemed to be increased by my silence. It was under these circumstances that I still determined to deal as little in personalities as possible, but by adhering strictly to the facts, to protect my legal rights and the rights of those who had purchased under my patent. After doing this in as courteous a manner as seemed possible, I closed my article in the February number of the American Bee Journal with these words:

"Does Mr. King, when suggesting that I might have bribed the patent office examiner, or that I might have conspired with Mr. Wagner to patent a foreign invention as my own, suppose that the beekeepers of this country will consider him as using the legitimate weapons of an honorable warfare, or that they will ever give credit to such unworthy insinuations?"

Since this article was written, Mr. Samuel Wagner has died, and I know that his many

friends will insist that the man who has heaped upon him such shameful misrepresentations and slanders, shall be shown in his true character. Other facts also have come to light, and I feel it is no longer possible for me to hold any terms with a man so steeped to the lips in falsehood, slander and hypocrisy as is Homer A. King. However strong are my provocations, I believe that I shall not only say nothing which is not strictly proper, but I *know* that if the public could be made acquainted with the true history of this man in his relations to bee-culture, they would see that *I have still kept back some TREACHERIES which would be more damaging to him than any which I have yet given to the public.* When the beekeepers of this country have before them the evidence that this man scruples at nothing that he thinks can be made to promote his purposes, I have no fear that they will blame me for at last speaking with a plainness that cannot be misunderstood, or that they will fail to see that in self-defence I have been driven by Mr. King himself to expose the duplicity which has marked his conduct since he first declared war against Mr. Wagner and myself.

In the November number of his paper, Mr. King has the following characteristic utterance: "We hope no one will accuse us of electioneering for office this year. We shall not be a candidate, neither shall we help to elect a man for president, as we did last year, merely to confer an honor upon him, and who has boasted that his election to that office was an acknowledgment of his claims." This means that being unanimously chosen president of a convention of beekeepers, many of whom had rival and perhaps conflicting patents, I have been mean enough to abuse their confidence by boasting that it was an admission of the validity of the claims of my patent as against theirs! Let us look at the language I *have* used, and see if it will warrant any such construction. "The generous treatment which I have received from the two beekeepers' conventions at Indianapolis and Cincinnati, has, I trust, put to rest forever all the aspersions which have been heaped upon me by ignorant or designing men, as being the mere *introducer* of a foreign invention, which with some unimportant modifications, I am charged with having patented, and attempted to palm upon an unsuspecting public as my own." If ever those charges are again made by those who know the facts, they must renounce all claims to truth, honor, or even common decency. I shall not insult the common sense of my readers by seeking to show that only the vilest misconstruction of my language could distort it into any such boasting as Mr. King alleges. I was mistaken, however, in supposing that anything could ever put to silence the aspersions of *designing* men. The charges *have* been made again, and by one who, from what he saw in Europe, was better qualified than almost any other man to know the facts, and by making such charges *he has renounced all claims to truth, honor, or even common decency.*

It is well known, that Mr. King was elected secretary of the beekeepers' association which met in Cleveland last December. In the January

number of his paper, he has as secretary given the proceedings of that body.

In his report of the proceedings of that body, he gives a description of a certain hive embracing all the features of the hive patented to me in 1852, and says "*he speaks advisedly*" when he declared that these features were invented by Mr. A. F. Moon over thirty years ago.

Did the association authorize this utterance of Mr. King? did they require him to inject it into the body of his report, that it might go as it were by their endorsement to every part of the beekeeping world? Not one word was said about this matter in their public proceedings, and it was left for Mr. King to do the very thing of which he so falsely accused me, viz.: to use dishonestly his position as an officer of the association, to promote his own selfish interests by trying to damage the claims of others!

Those who have read Mr. King's various communications since this controversy began, cannot but have noticed his frequent professions of being governed by high Christian motives, and his assertions, that under the severest provocations "God still gives him grace to love his enemies." Judged from the tenor of such remarks, coupled with the oft repeated affirmations, that "his non-resistant principles would almost compel him to acquiesce in unjust demands," or "to prefer honorable compromise to legal controversy," one need feel no surprise that he should interlard not only his conversations and letters, but even his *telegraphic communications*,* with such suspicious religious utterances. If we give full credit to the sketch of his life, published in the Phrenological Journal for February, 1871, we must agree that he is almost worthy to be canonized as a saint.

"Active out-of-door exercise having now restored the health of Mr. King, his impulses of duty again called him to the home missionary field. A peculiarity in his labor was, that he never received any pay for his ministerial work, not even for travelling expenses, when called to journey for the benefit of his fellow men many miles by rail. This has given him great power with skeptical minds, since they could not question the purity of his motives, and the sincerity of his purposes.

"The business, however, to which he gave such impetus, now began to feel the effects of his absence, and yielding to a strong outside pressure, upon mature deliberation, he decided to return to his business, under the solemn vow that he would use all his surplus income to advance the holy work to which he had devoted his youth."

"Alas! however, for the rarity of Christian charity, under the sun!" It is to be feared that this revelation to all the world of solemn vows, which would otherwise have been known only to Mr. King and his Maker, will be regarded by most persons as a positive violation of the command of the Master:

"Therefore, when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have

* One telegram to me begins thus: "I feel to bless and curse not."

their reward. But when thou doest thine alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth."

In all sober verity, such parade of almost saintly perfection, is utterly abhorrent to every right minded man.

Dickens, in his *David Copperfield*, which of all his fictions he says he likes best, has painted in colors which can never fade, a certain *Uriah Heep*, who in his career well nigh exhausted all the heights and depths and lengths and breadths of the *humility dodge*. Was it reserved for Homer A. King to put the *religious dodge* to the same varied uses?

The celebrated poet, Thomas Hood, must have been an indignant witness of the painful union of religious professions with very unreligious acts, or his pen could never thus have consigned them to perpetual infamy:

"With sweet kind natures, as in honeyed cells,
Religion lives, and finds herself at home;
But only on a formal visit dwells
Where wasps instead of bees have formed the comb.
Shun pride, O man! whatever sort beside
You take in lieu, shun spiritual pride!
For of all prides, since Lucifer's attain, the
The proudest swells a self-elected saint.
A man may cry Church! Church! at every word,
With no more piety than other people—
A daw's not reckoned a religious bird
Because it keeps a cawing from the steeple.
The temple is a good, a holy place,
But canting only gives it an ill savor;
While saintly mountebanks the porch disgrace,
And bring religion's self into disfavor!
Behold yon servitor of God and mammon,
Who binding up his Bible with his ledger,
Blends Gospel texts with trading gammon,
A black-leg saint, a spiritual hedger,
Who backs his rigid Sabbath, so to speak,
Against the wicked remnant of the week,
A saving bet against his sinful bias—
"Rogue that I am," he whispers to himself,
"I lie—I cheat—do anything for pelf,
But who on earth can say I am not pious!"

Some of my readers may question whether I have weighed carefully the risk of exposing a man who has at least two presses under his control, and an organized body-guard of infringers upon my patent to do his bidding. Others may fear lest on the principle of the old law maxim, "*The greater the truth the greater the libel*," even the just severity of my language may recoil upon myself. After his December utterances, however, Mr. King has no valid reason for being surprised at my plain exposition of his apian career; those December utterances he must know would be pronounced libellous by any honest court and jury in the land.

If there are any of my readers to whom my language may seem unjustifiably severe, I would say that they will probably think otherwise when facts are presented to them as they must be, still more damaging to Mr. King.

Beekeepers of America! as I think of the late Samuel Wagner, I feel that it was laid upon me as a sacred duty, to expose the man whose calumnies followed him to the very moment when he sank in unconsciousness; and have, even after his death, though this could not have

been intended, have been sown broadcast over the land by M. E. Williams, associate editor with Mr. King. Williams' article, as full of baseness as though dictated by King himself, will be given in due season, with suitable comments thereon, to the readers of the American Bee Journal, who will then know more fully under what a sense of moral indignation I have penned this personal.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23, 1872.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Patented Honey Boxes.

On page 136, of the December number of the Bee Journal, Mr. George T. Wheeler informs us that he has patented a honey box. We mentioned that kind of honey boxes in the "ANNALS OF BEE-CULTURE" for 1870. Mr. William Plocher, of Fairwater, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, an intelligent German beekeeper, who has Huber's work and several other German treatises on bees, has used that device for years, and is now using it. What sense is there in running to the Patent office, with every old notion that we have re-vamped?

A friend of ours in Upper Canada, has hit upon the same principle as our new style hive; and he informs me that he has used it the past season with the greatest satisfaction. And we do not know how many more have hit on the same principle. Now, suppose we had galloped off to the Patent office, and paid Munn & Co., or some other Co., a large fee, we could no doubt have succeeded in making a donkey of ourself, just as hundreds of others have done before for themselves, and as many more will probably keep doing. Just so long as our Patent office is managed as it is and has been, you may depend on it there is and always will be a screw loose somewhere.

E. GALLUP.

Orchard, Iowa.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Bees at Lucknow, Canada.

MR. EDITOR:—In looking over some of the back numbers of the Journal, I saw an account of the reason for bees leaving for the woods, which brought to my mind an incident connected therewith, which was this. I met one of my neighbor's boys one morning, of whom I inquired how his father's bees were doing. He replied, "very well, only we lost one swarm yesterday." Ah! said I, how was that? "Well," replied he, "yesterday was a very hot day, and a fine large swarm came off and lit on a currant bush. Father said it was too warm to put them in a hive then, and he would leave them till evening; but when evening came, they were gone." Ah! said I, Charley, if you had subscribed for the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL two years ago, as I wanted you to do, your swarm, to say nothing else, would have been worth the whole price.

Well, I met the father a few days after, and wanted him to let me send for the Journal for him; but, no, he could not afford it! Mr. Editor, this was a year ago, last June. At that time he had three stocks. Now they are like the meat a man was trying to sell. When asked, if he had killed it, he said no! Did it die? No, *it just gin out!* So with my neighbor's bees—they "just gin out!"

I have never known of a swarm of bees, in my experience, to leave without clustering first; and for myself I have had no trouble in getting swarms to stay, when put in a good clean hive.

I made a slight move last summer, in the Italian bee direction; and received a queen from Mr. A. Grimm, and let me here say, that I consider him very prompt in his dealings, as I got a return in one week after sending. Well, I got my queen introduced all right, but in looking through my stocks three months after, I found my treasure dead on the alighting board, and the hive left queenless. So I am set another year behind in Italianizing, but intend to try again next year, if nothing happens to prevent.

My bees are wintering nicely so far, thanks to Mr. Gallup. May his shadow never grow less. How I should like to take a few lessons under his guidance.

Hoping I shall be able to increase your subscription list before long, I remain, yours, &c.

GEORGE T. BURGESS.

Lucknow, Canada, Dec. 18, 1871.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Introducing a queen into a hive that has sent off a prime swarm.

If I remember right it is stated somewhere in the Journal that a fertile queen bee can be successfully introduced into a hive that has given a prime swarm, if this be done at the moment when swarming has ceased. I tried repeatedly to introduce fertile queens three days after swarming, keeping them caged the previous three days; and though I destroyed every queen cell before liberating my queens, I lost them in every instance where I had not removed the parent stock to a new location. Only when I waited till the seventh day after swarming, destroyed all the queen cells, and the queens already hatched, (if any) likewise, and then delayed six hours longer, could I succeed invariably by simply liberating the queen at the entrance of the hive.

Last summer I tried the method claimed to be uniformly successful, and have to report that I failed four times out of six. Only two queens were accepted, and the two stocks that accepted them, proved to be as productive in surplus honey as other strong stocks that had given no swarms; while the four that killed the offered queens and gave no second swarm, gave me no box-honey at all. I cannot estimate the value of a fertile queen thus successfully introduced in the first half of the month of June, at less than seven or eight dollars. But if we should

always lose four out of six queens, it would in the end be a poor speculation to introduce fertile queens into hives that have given prime natural swarms. I suspect that others had better success, or they would have reported their failures. I report my experience only to caution others not to risk valuable queens in this manner as I did. I am well satisfied that an apiarian will much improve many of his mother-stocks, by selecting and inserting a sealed queen cell from a hive that has given a prime swarm a week previous and has piping queens. The stocks so treated will not swarm a second time, and have a fertile queen almost as soon as one can be successfully introduced.

ADAM GRIMM.

Jefferson Wis., Dec. 27, 1871.

[For the American Bee Journal.]

Chloroform and "Blunders."

MR. EDITOR:—Have any of the subscribers to the Journal ever used chloroform in handling bees? If so, how does it work? I do not believe it will work well; but one of my neighbors says he will try it next season, if he loses a few swarms by it.*

In my communication in the January Journal, you give the date of my transferring two stocks of bees to movable comb hives as August 21st. It was done August 29th. You also make it read "three hives full," whereas it should be "their hives full."†

Now I want to take up brother Gallup, for he has infringed on my hive, and goes galloping over the description of it as if he was the sole inventor. Now I have been thinking of this kind of hive for the last six months, and in fact my hives for the last year were of the same size, except in length. I only had ten frames instead of twenty-four and thirty-two. Now I have one made with twenty-six frames, and am going to see if I can get fifty (50) gallons of honey from it next season. At all events brother Gallup did not get the dollar from me for a description of my own hive.

I want some Italians next season and shall probably call on brother Grimm, or some other reliable queen raiser for a supply.

With many good wishes for the success of the Journal, I remain, as ever, truly yours,

J. W. CRAMER.

Oncida, Ills.

* A Number of our subscribers employed chloroform successfully and satisfactorily last summer, using one-tenth or one-eighth of an ounce for a dose.—[ED.]

† These were typographical errors, which despite of every care, are apt to occur in our own articles as in those of our correspondents. They are annoying and vexatious, especially when *queen* cells are converted into *green* cells, and *frames* into *franes*. If the *cash* were always forthcoming when the latter metamorphosis takes place, we should incline to cry *eureka* and think the *philosopher's stone* was found at last, for that would indeed be a substantial transformation.—[ED.]